JUMP COMICS DELUXE

3

島袋光年

RING

by SHIMABUKURO MITSUTOSHI

SJ JUMP COMICS DELUXE

RING リング 3

島袋光年

集英社

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前巻までのあらすじ

イッテミマショ～

スポーツ名門校・山川学園に入学した超ハイテンション男・花形夏（通称サマー）は、親友・時田と共に、憧れの先輩・佐織あすかがマネージャーを務める輪部（リング）に入部。リングとは、輪投げをフィールド競技にしたスポーツ。ルールも覚えずに臨んだ1・2年チーム対3年チームの紅白戦では、サマーは全く活躍できずチームも惨敗、悔し涙を流しつつ猛特訓を開始する。その成果あって、あすかにベタ惚れの全日本強化選手・赤太一郎とのシュート対決では、その才能の片鱗を見せるのだった。そして組まれた強豪・杏里高校との練習試合。サマー、念願のレギュラー獲得なるか!!

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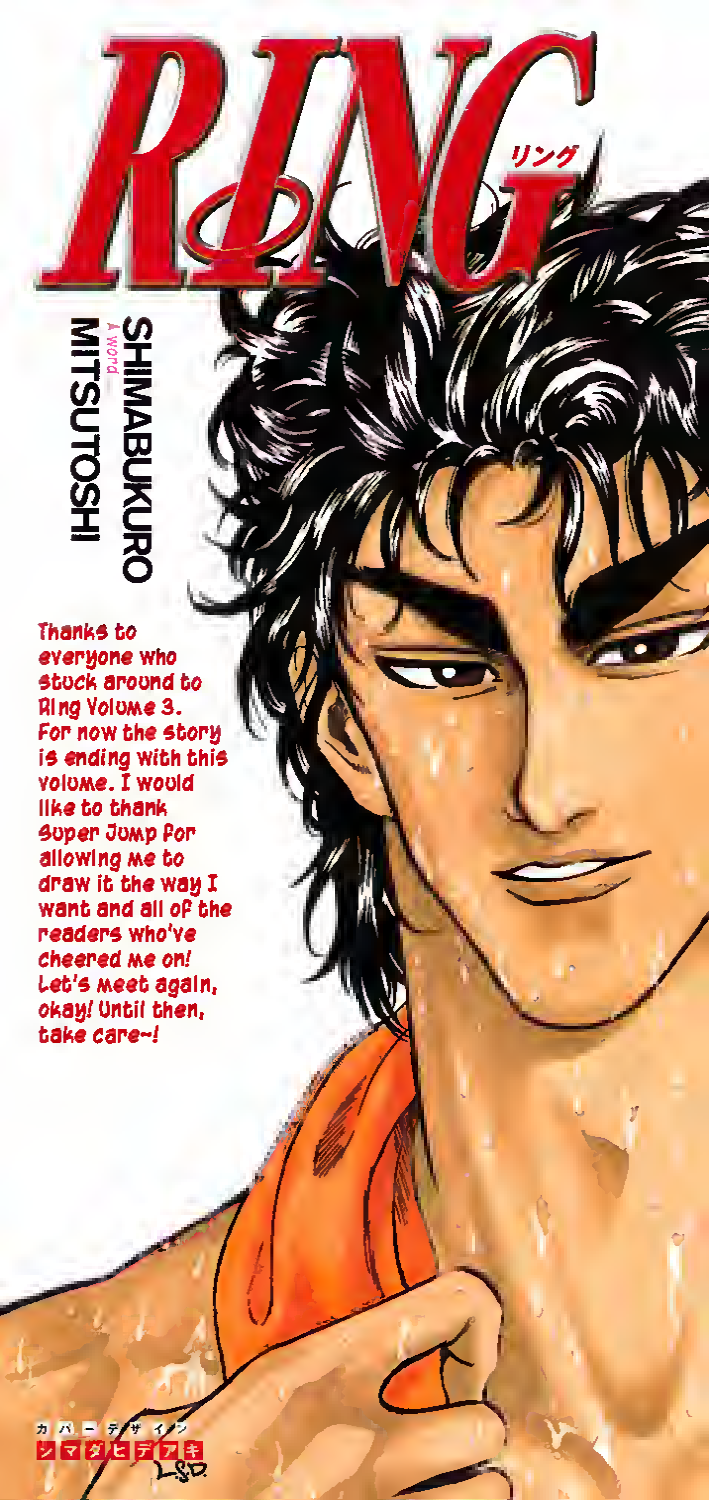
by SHIMABUKURO MITSUTOSHI

RING リング

SHIMABUKURO
A.k.a.
MITSUTOSHI



Thanks to everyone who stuck around to Ring Volume 3. For now the story is ending with this volume. I would like to thank Super Jump for allowing me to draw it the way I want and all of the readers who've cheered me on! Let's meet again, okay! Until then, take care~!

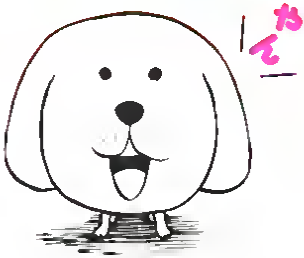
カバーデザイン
シマダヒデアキ

世紀末リーダー伝

たけし！

ワイド判

全13巻絶賛発売中!!



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RING #3

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This is a compilation of the series that ran in Super Jump 2004 No 24 to 2005 No 6 and also Oh Super Jump 2005 APRIL.

This is a work of fiction There are no connections to any actual persons, groups or events whatsoever.

THE TENSION OF THE YAMAGAWA ACADEMY'S RING TEAM WAS TRULY REACHING THE MAX———
FIGHT!
EIH!
WITH THE PRACTICE MATCH WITH THE POWERHOUSE TEAM ANRI HIGH SCHOOL COMING UP
EIH!

Ring17 : Remember the Rules!

Ring17 : Remember the Rules!

OU!
IT WENT TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE!
HEEEY, LET'S HERE SOME VOICES OUT THEEEERE!!
DON'T STOP MOVING!!
NO MATTER HOW GOOD YOUR TECHNIQUE IS, IF YOU CAN'T MOVE YOU'LL BE USELESS IN A MATCH!!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? YOU TIRED ALREADY?! HUH?
THEY WENT THAT WAY, AKAAAAA!!
HUH?
HEEEY, AKAAA!!!
AH?
GEE~~~Z. I'M NOT A BIG-SWEAT KINDA PLAYER
AYE~~~~ I'M NOT TIRE~~D!
Huhhuhhu. NOT ONE FOR RUNNING, AKA-CHIN?

IT LOOKS LIKE ONE GUY'S PRETTY MUCH OUT OF THE RUNNING.
IN THE BATTLE TO MAKE THE REGULAR LINEUP,
HEY, SUMMEEEEER, KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE GAME!
HERE!
SFX: BIH
SFX: SHISSHISSHISHHISHHISHHISHHI
SFX: DAH
OUH!
SFX: DASHI
SFX: ZUDADADADA
KYAAAA! SIDEBURNS-MAN IS ANGRYYYY!
PRETTY BIG TALK FOR SOMEBODY THAT'S NOT EVEN GONNA MAKE SECOND STRING, BASTAAAARD!!
WHO THE HELL DID YOU SAY'S DROPPING OUT, ASSHOO-OOOLE?!!
WH...
WHO ...

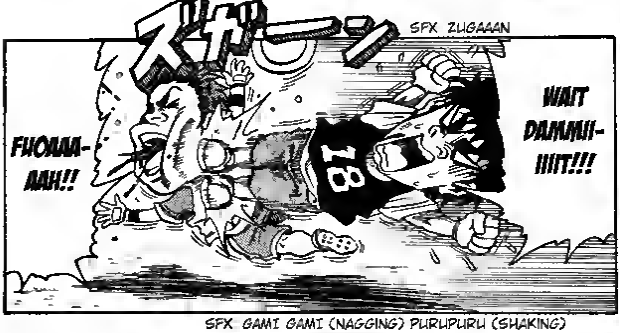
SUMMER, LOOK AROUND YOU! PASS IT!!
KYAAAA! THIS IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT!
WAIT, DAMMIIIIIT !!
FOLLOW UP WITH THE PEOPLE NEARBY YOU!!!
YOU'RE HOLDING ONTO IT TOO LONG, SUMMEE-EEER!!

TH.....
THIS GUY.....

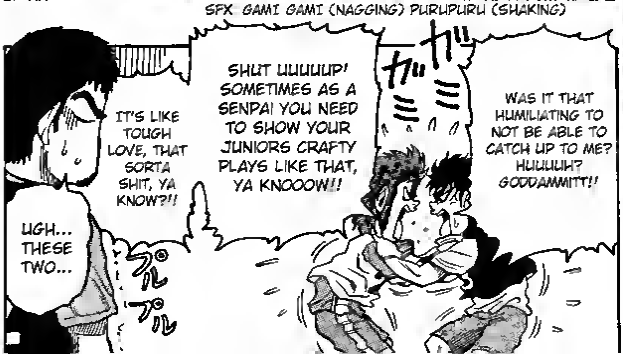
IS FAST!!
SUMMER SAID HE HAS A FEELING HE DID A 100-METER RACE IN UNDER 11 SECONDS...
THERE'S THAT HAPHAZARD SPEED AGAIN.
THAT LIAR!!
WHAT'S HE MEAN HE HAS A FEELING'?
FRIGGIN' ...

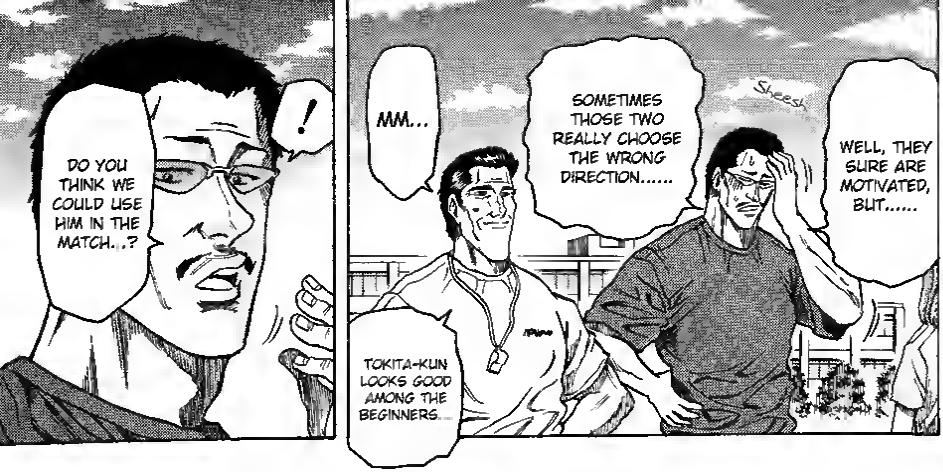
SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, POOR FOLK HAVE ALWAYS QUICK ON THEIR FEET!!
HAHHAAAA! HOW 'BOUT THAT?! DID YOU SEE, AKA-CHIN!!

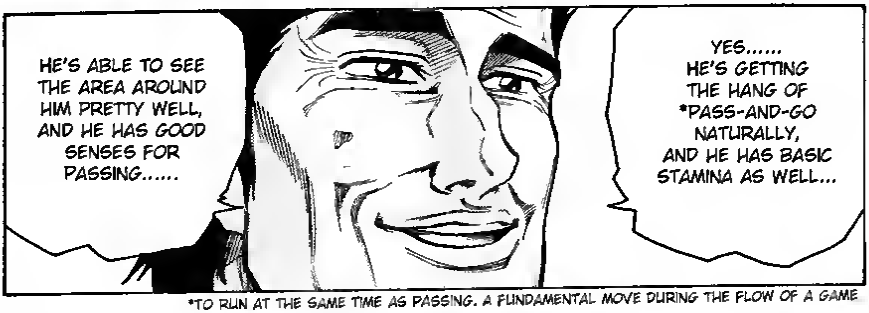
SFX: SUKOON
Aaaah, sorryyyy!
My cleat slipped oooooOFF!!
BUHAH!!
AND THERE ARE LOTS OF POOR PEOPLE THAT END UP BIG W!.....


SFX ZUGAAAN
FUOAAA-AAH!!
WAIT DAMMII-IIIIT!!!

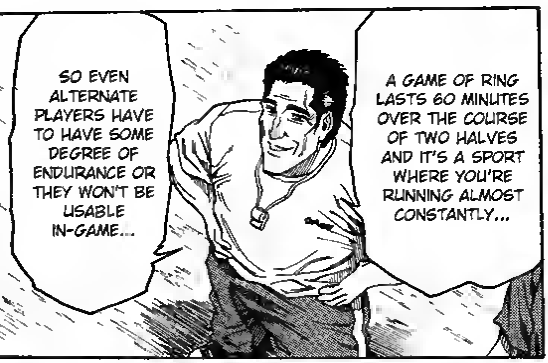
WHAT A WEIRD HAPPENING THAT WAS!
Well, I'll just take that!!
ALL RIIIGHT, A QUICK ATTAAAACK !!
SFX: DADAH

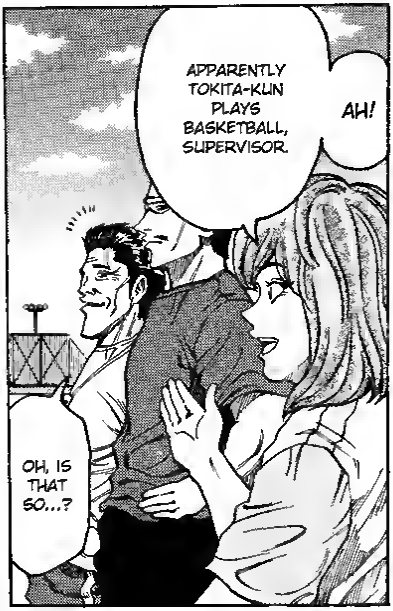

SFX: GAMI GAMI (NAGGING) PURUPURU (SHAKING)
IT'S LIKE TOUGH LOVE, THAT SORTA SHIT, YA KNOW?!!
SHUT UUUUUP! SOMETIMES AS A SENPAI YOU NEED TO SHOW YOUR JUNIORS CRAFTY PLAYS LIKE THAT, YA KNOOOW!!
WAS IT THAT HUMILIATING TO NOT BE ABLE TO CATCH UP TO ME? HUUUUH? GODDAMMITT!!
UGH... THESE TWO...

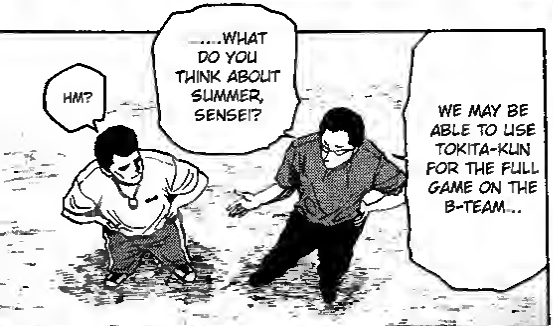

DO YOU THINK WE COULD USE HIM IN THE MATCH..?
!
MM...
SOMETIMES THOSE TWO REALLY CHOOSE THE WRONG DIRECTION.....
Sheesh
WELL, THEY SURE ARE MOTIVATED, BUT.....
TOKITA-KUN LOOKS GOOD AMONG THE BEGINNERS...


HE'S ABLE TO SEE THE AREA AROUND HIM PRETTY WELL, AND HE HAS GOOD SENSES FOR PASSING.....
YES..... HE'S GETTING THE HANG OF *PASS-AND-GO NATURALLY, AND HE HAS BASIC STAMINA AS WELL...

*TO RUN AT THE SAME TIME AS PASSING. A FUNDAMENTAL MOVE DURING THE FLOW OF A GAME


SO EVEN ALTERNATE PLAYERS HAVE TO HAVE SOME DEGREE OF ENDURANCE OR THEY WON'T BE USABLE IN-GAME...
A GAME OF RING LASTS 60 MINUTES OVER THE COURSE OF TWO HALVES AND IT'S A SPORT WHERE YOU'RE RUNNING ALMOST CONSTANTLY...

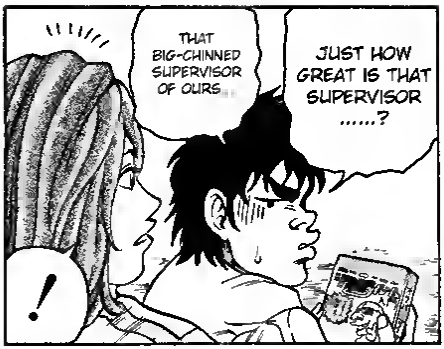


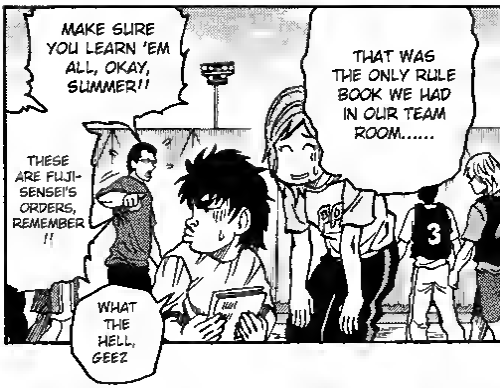


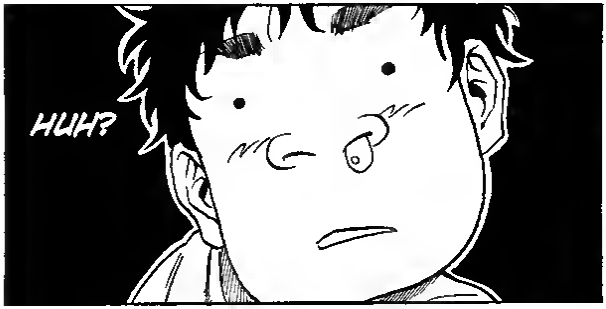
WELL, NOT IN THE FULL GAME, THOUGH.
WE CAN USE HIM.
B... BUT SENSEI,
THERE'S NO REASON BESIDES TO WIN...
THAT SUMMER KID STILL DOESN'T EVEN HAVE ALL THE RULES MEMORIZED ...
HUH?
WHAT A SILLY QUES-TION
DO YOU MEAN AS A TACTIC FOR VICTORY?
WELL... UH.....
HUUUUUH?! SERIOUSLY ?!
Or just to give him experience?
SFX: HMMM
BE BAD ...
THAT REALLY MAY...
FOR THE MOST PART.
YES.
HE DOESN'T ?
.....
WHY?!
HUH-UUUH ?!

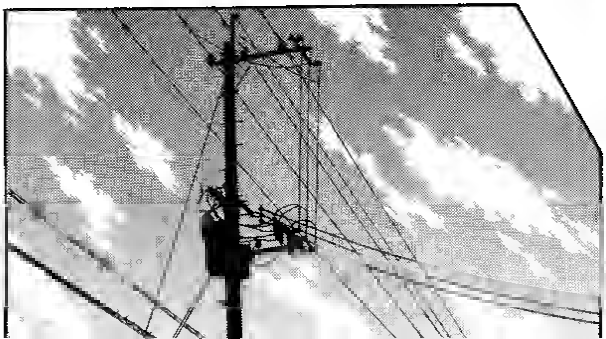
DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK YOU CAN BE IN THE MATCH WITHOUT KNOWING THE RULES?
YOU IDIOT! NOT FOR A TEST, FOR THE MATCH!
THESE ARE FUJI-SENSEI'S ORDERS... NOW COOPERATE AND LEARN THE RULES.
WHAT? THERE ARE TESTS LIKE THAT?
THE RULES OF RING.....?
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE IN A STUDY SESSION?!!
SINCE WHEN HAVE I BEEN ROPED INTO SOME COMPETITIVE ENTRANCE EXAMS?
SHUT UHHP! YOU'VE GOT SIDEBURNS LIKE LUPIN!!
KINDA RUNNING DOWN IDIOT-STREET AT FULL SPEED, AIN'CHA?
WHAT'S THIS NOW? YOU CHALLENGED ME WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING THE RULES?
UNLESS YOU LEARN THEM, NOT ONLY CAN YOU NOT BE IN THE MATCH, YOU'RE NOT EVEN ALLOWED IN PRACTICE!!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD LEARN ALL THA~~~T!!
I DON' WANNA~~~~ I HA~~TE STUDYING!
FUJI-SENSEI'S ORDERS!!
GU...
ASHUKA-SENPYAAAA !!!
CYAA-AAAA!!
SUMMER-KUN, I'LL TEACH YA! HOW 'BOUT WE LEARN TOGETHER?
BUSHU
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A CERTIFIED ATHLETE FOR ALL OF JAPAN?!!
YOU LIAR!
AW MA~~~N, I THINK I TOTALLY FORGOT ALL THE RU~~LES .....
HM~~~
HEH ?!!
WHAT IS RING AGAIN ?!!
2

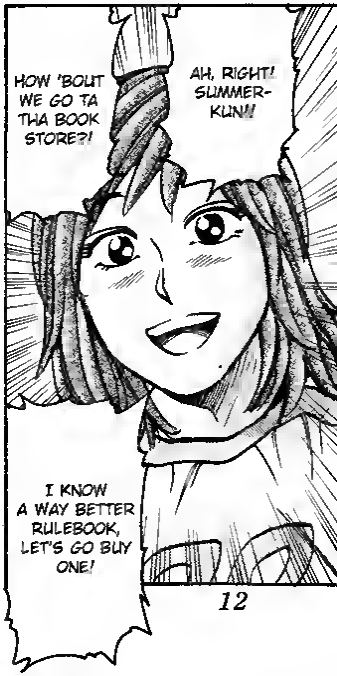
Oliver Michael Jr.
RING RULES
MANUAL
You, too, can make great progress!
WHO IS THIS GUY...?
WHAT THE FUCK IS THIS?

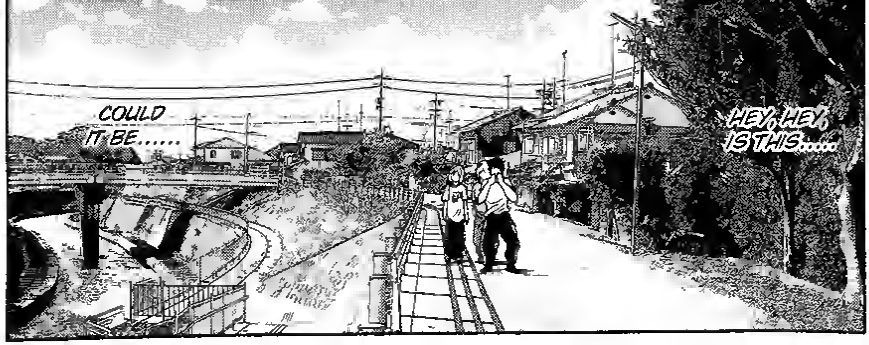

THAT BIG-CHINNED SUPERVISOR OF OURS...
JUST HOW GREAT IS THAT SUPERVISOR .....?
!


MAKE SURE YOU LEARN 'EM ALL, OKAY, SUMMER!!
THAT WAS THE ONLY RULE BOOK WE HAD IN OUR TEAM ROOM.....
THESE ARE FUJI-SENSEI'S ORDERS, REMEMBER!!
WHAT THE HELL, GEEZ


HUH?

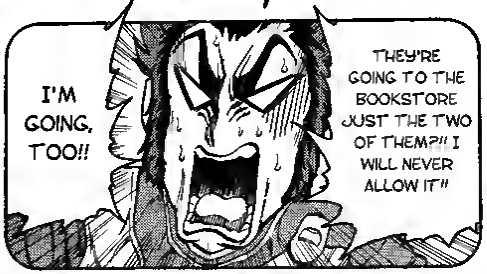


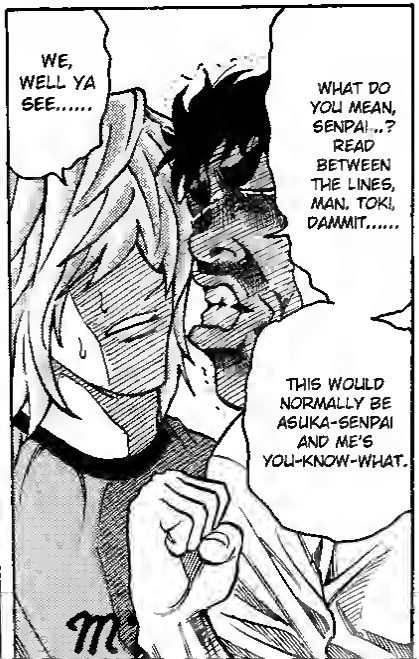

HOW 'BOUT WE GO TA THA BOOK STORE?!
AH, RIGHT! SUMMER-KUN!!
I KNOW A WAY BETTER RULEBOOK, LET'S GO BUY ONE!


COULD IT BE.....
HEY, HEY, IS THIS.....

ER...
THAT'S NOT SUPPOSED TA HAPPEN!
——HEY, WHO BROUGHT YOU ALONG, TOKI?!!
WELL, SENPAI DID.
SFX: BIH

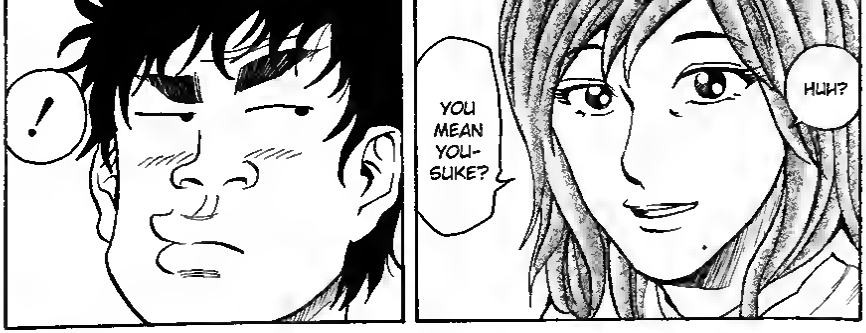
IT'S A DATE!!!! IT'S SERIOUSLY TOTALLY A DATE!!!! THIS IS A DAAAAAATE!
AW-AW MAAAAN!!! IT IS, ISN'T IT!!! IT'S A DATE!!! A FRIGGIN' DATE!!!


I'M GOING, TOO!!
THEY'RE GOING TO THE BOOKSTORE JUST THE TWO OF THEM?!! I WILL NEVER ALLOW IT!!


WE, WELL YA SEE.....
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SENPAI...? READ BETWEEN THE LINES, MAN. TOKI, DAMMIT.....
THIS WOULD NORMALLY BE ASUKA-SENPAI AND ME'S YOU-KNOW-WHAT.

AT LEAST MAKE SOMEBODY ELSE GO WITH 'EM!!
WE CAN'T JUST LET THEM DO THAAAAT!
GUAA-AAA!
NO WAY. YOU'VE GOTTA PRACTICE
THEY CAN'T BE ALOOOOONE!!

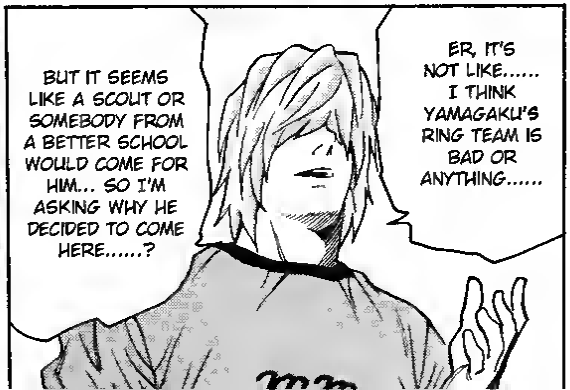
WILL YOU COME WITH US FOR A BIT?
HUH?
THEN HOW 'BOUT TOKITA-KUN?!
I GUESS BETTER YOU THAN AKA-CHIN, SAORI OR SOMEBODY LIKE THAT.....
OKAY, FINE!
HMPH.
I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE .....
SO LIKE I SAID
HM?
AH... RIGHT. SENPAI ...
THA'S CAUSE HE'S A PRACTICE NUT.....
SAORI SAID THAT IF HE HAD TIME FOR STUPID CRAP LIKE THAT HE SHOULD BE PRACTICING .....
WHY'D YOUR LITTLE BROTHER COME TO THIS SCHOOL?
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK THIS FOR A WHILE NOW ...


!
YOU MEAN YOU-SUKE?
HUH?

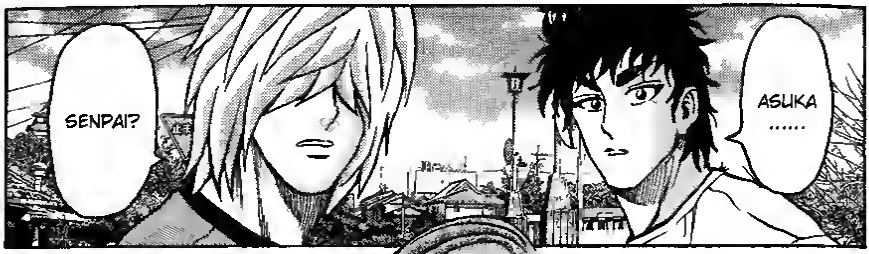
HE SEEMS LIKE SOMEBODY WHO WOULD GET SOME ATTENTION ON THE PREFECTURAL-LEVEL FOR THIS YEAR'S ROOKIES...
UH..... WELL..... TO BE HONEST, FROM WATCHING HIM IN PRACTICE, HE'S ON A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEVEL FROM THE OTHER 1ST YEARS.....

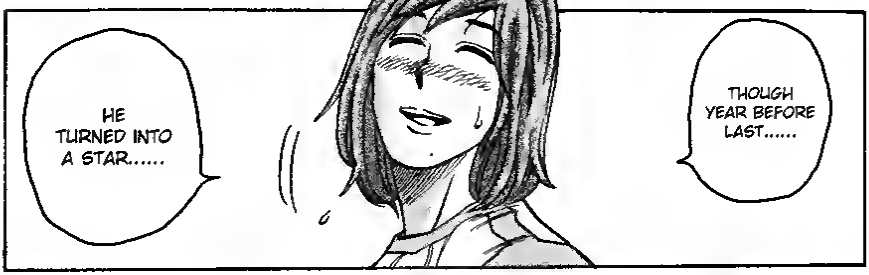
THAT'S THE REASON YOU CAME HERE!!
Because it's closest to his house!
AIN'T IT OBVIOUS?

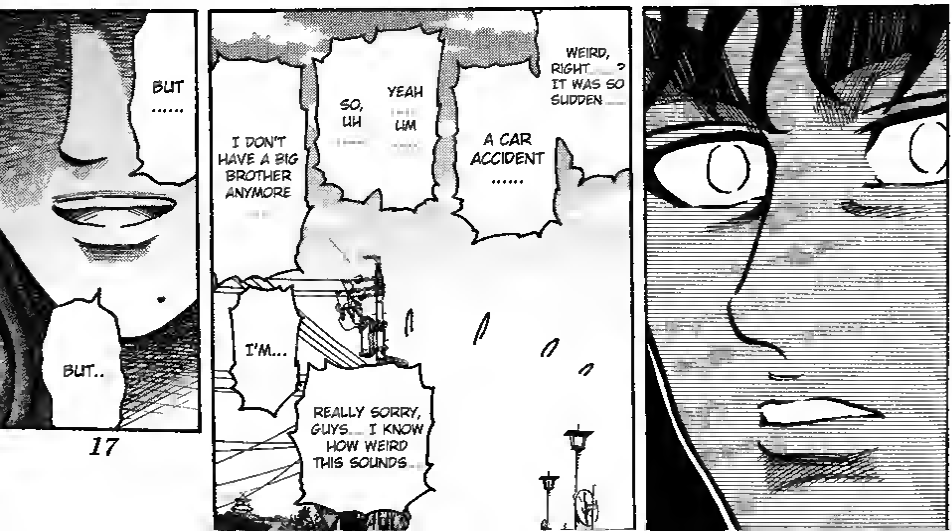
I THINK I'D GARNER WAY MORE ATTENTION BETWEEN THE TWO OF US...
NO WAY IN HEEELL!
ER~~~~ I DUNNO ABOUT THA~~~T.

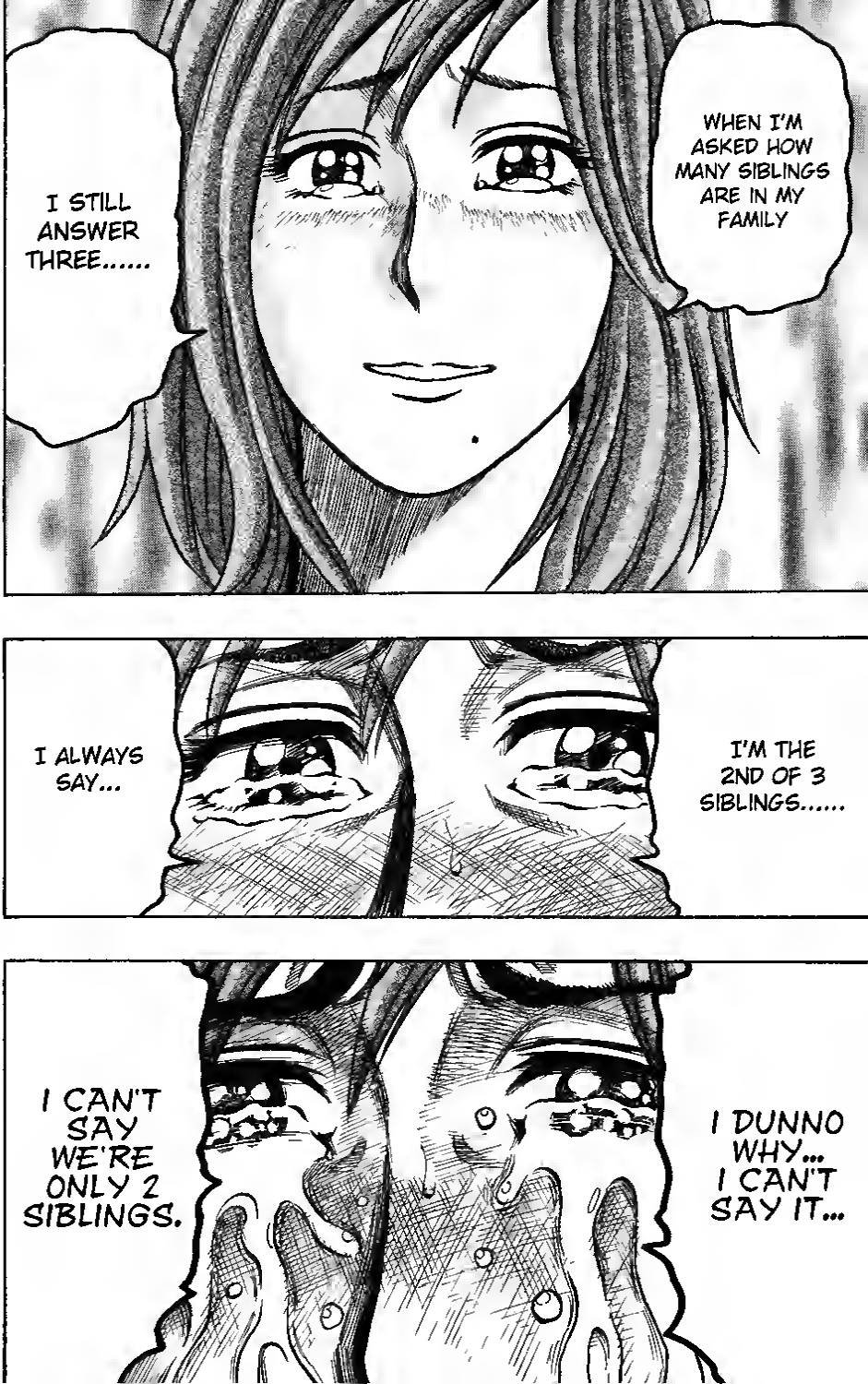

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE A SCOUT OR SOMEBODY FROM A BETTER SCHOOL WOULD COME FOR HIM... SO I'M ASKING WHY HE DECIDED TO COME HERE.....?
ER, IT'S NOT LIKE..... I THINK YAMAGAKU'S RING TEAM IS BAD OR ANYTHING.....

HOW MANY SIBLINGS'RE IN OUR FAMILY.....
IF YOU ASKED.....
!
THREE ...
I'D ANSWER
I'VE GOT AN OLDER BROTHER .....
YEAH..... I'VE GOT...
.....
I HAVE A...
BROTHER TWO YEARS OLDER THAN ME...


SENPAI?
ASUKA .....


HE TURNED INTO A STAR.....
THOUGH YEAR BEFORE LAST.....

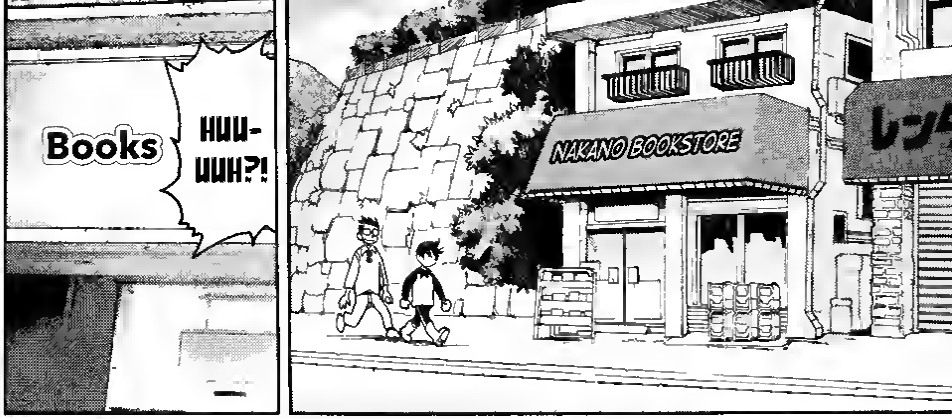

BUT .....
BUT..
I DON'T HAVE A BIG BROTHER ANYMORE
SO, UH
YEAH UM .....
WEIRD, RIGHT....? IT WAS SO SUDDEN....
A CAR ACCIDENT .....
I'M...
REALLY SORRY, GUYS.... I KNOW HOW WEIRD THIS SOUNDS...

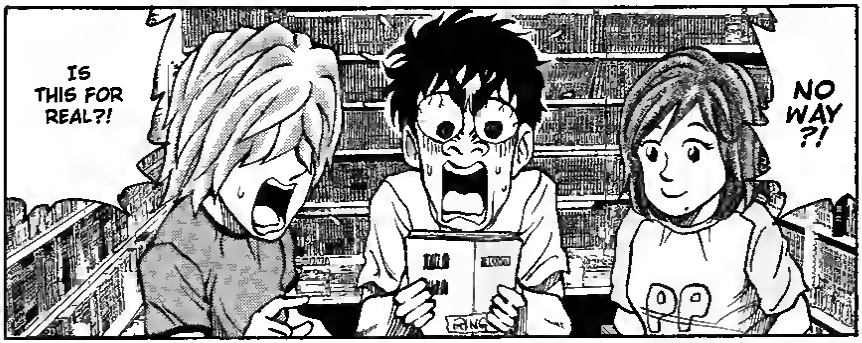

I STILL ANSWER THREE.....
WHEN I'M ASKED HOW MANY SIBLINGS ARE IN MY FAMILY
I ALWAYS SAY...
I'M THE 2ND OF 3 SIBLINGS.....
I CAN'T SAY WE'RE ONLY 2 SIBLINGS.
I DUNNO WHY... I CAN'T SAY IT...

I'VE GOT A BIG BROTHER...
IN MY HEART I'VE GOT A BIG BROTHER...
AND HE'S STILL ALIVE...
!!!
ASUKA ...
SENPAI .....
AH, I'M... SORRY..... I JUST.....
I... REALLY LOVED MY BIG BROTHER .....
SNIFF
SNIFF
WAS YOUR BIG BROTHER ...
ON THE YAMAGAKU RING TEAM?
.....
OH, GEEZ..... TOKITA-KUN.....
YOU'RE JUST TOO CLEVER .....

BIG BROTHER'S DREAM.....
WAS TO CONQUER NATIONALS WITH THE YAMAGAKU RING TEAM...
I..... JUST WANTED TO MAKE THAT DREAM COME TRUE SOMEHOW...
SO THAT'S WHY YOU BECAME THE MANAGER, ASUKA-SENPAI .....?
AND THAT'S WHY HE.....
YOUSUKE WON' SAY IT OUT LOUD, BUT...
HE ALWAYS USED TO FIGHT WITH BIG BROTHER...
HE'LL PROBABLY SAY HE JUST PICKED YAMAGAKU BECAUSE IT WAS NEARBY.....
SO THEN HE BLEW OFF EVERY ONE OF THE MANY SCOUTS THAT SHOWED UP...
AND JUST WENT TO YAMAGAKU FOR NO REASON .....?
IF HE WANTED TO PLAY RING, THERE WERE LOTS OF BETTER SCHOOLS HE COULD'VE GONE TO...
HE'S NOT ALWAYS HONEST, MY BROTHER, YOUSUKE...
BUT .....
I THINK YOUSUKE LIKED OUR BIG BROTHER MOST OF ALL...
MAKES SENSE, RIGHT...? BEING AN OLDER BROTHER 'N A YOUNGER BROTHER...
.....

AND HIS REASON FOR CHOOSING YAMAGAKI, HUH.....?
SO THAT'S... THE CAUSE OF SAORI'S UTTERLY STOIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS RING.....
SFX. ORO ORO
UWAH!!!
I'B NA~~~WT OGA~~~Y ~~~!!
I MADE YOU REMEMBER SOMETHING SO UNPLEASANT...
BUT... I KINDA FEEL BAD.
AH, IT'S OKAY...
SFX. AAAAAA
BUT HE DID LEAVE HOME!! WE'VE GOT THE NOT BEING AT HOME ANYMORE PART IN COMMON, RIGHT?!
BUT YOUR DAD ISN'T DEAD!
THAT MADE ME SORTA... REMEMBER MY DECEASED DAD...
ASHUKA-SENPAI. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WENT THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THAT.....
あ あ あ あ
HUH? YOUR DAD BECAME A STAR, TOO...?!
.....
BUT HE'S STILL NOT THERE, DANGIT!!
AND HE LEFT HOME BECAUSE THOSE VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, RIGHT?!
NO, THEY'RE REALLY SIMILAR!!
NO, NOT RIGHT! DYING AND LEAVING HOME ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT!!


Books
HUU-UUH?!
NAKANO BOOKSTORE

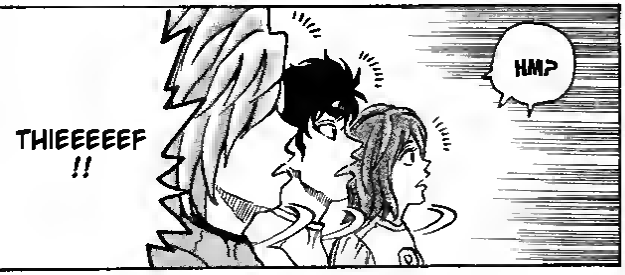

IS THIS FOR REAL?!
NO WAY?!

APPARENTLY HE WENT INTO CLUB TEAM COACHING AFTER HE RETIRED.....
FUJI-SENSEI'S A FORMER RING PLAYER.

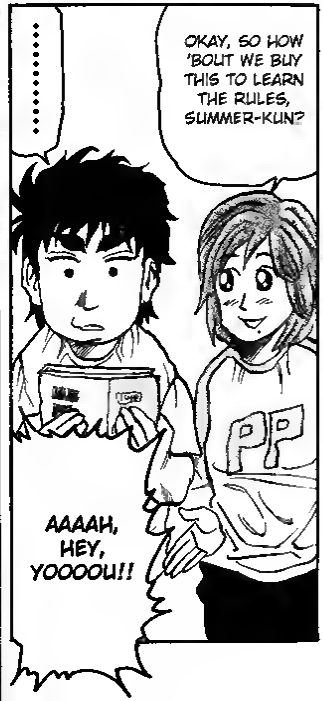
BOOK: SCORING IN RING
SUPERVISOR FUJI TAKASHI
THAT CHIN WROTE A FREAKIN' BOOK?!!
THAT'S OUR SUPERVISOR, AIN'T IT!
UH, YEAH...
Chin...?
監修 富士山

BUT THIS BOOK... IT'S A FIRST EDITION THAT WAS PRINTED 10 YEARS AGO, IT LOOKS LIKE...
He didn't sell at all...
HE'S ACTUALLY A REAL AMAZING PERSON
WHU~~~~~H? HE WAS ALWAYS TALKING LIKE HE WAS SO GREAT, BUT HE REALLY WAS AN PRETTY GREAT GUY...

HM?


HM?
THIEEEEEF !!

SFX KYAAA
SOMEBODY STOP HIM!!
OH.
CALL THE POLICE!!
SHOP-LIFTEE-EER!!
HE'S RUNNING OUTSIDE!!


OKAY, SO HOW 'BOUT WE BUY THIS TO LEARN THE RULES, SUMMER-KUN?
AAAAH, HEY, YOOOOU!!

YOU SURE HAVE SHITTY LUCK TO HAVE DONE THAT WHEN I HAPPENED TO BE HERE!!
STUPID THIEF...
JUST LEAVE THAT TA ME!!
SLIMME-EEER!!
THERE'S A SHOPLIFTER!
SFX: DAH
CAN CATCH HIM.
THAT PERM-HAIRED GLY THAT JUST RAN OUT...
YOU SHOULD BE FINE.
DID YOU CALL THE POLICE?
THAT THIEF WAS A STUDENT, WASN'T HE?!
GO GET 'IM, SUMMER-KUN!
APRON: BOOKS.
SFX: DON
KYA!
WA!
WAIT, DAMMIIIIIT !!

THE HYPEEEER B-DASH!!
SFX: GUH
GET A LOAD OF THIS!!
HN!
THIS IS WHAT I USED TO GO 100 METERS IN WHAT I HAVE A FEELING WAS UNDER 11 SECONDS...
SFX: KYAOH

GRIN
!

HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
SFX: DOKI
NO, YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG GUY!!
HUH?!
THE THIEF, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE
GAH

Shimabus

Thought up all on my own....

Rules of Ring!

~Really Broad~

Throwing

- When the ring crosses a sideline, the opposing team to whomever the last player to touch it throws it in to resume play. In this situation, only after the referee has signaled that the ring has crossed the sidelines, can play resume without waiting for the referee's signal.

- The point the ring is thrown in from is the location where the ring crossed the line, but if the Ring crossed an end line then the throw point is the point where the end line and sideline meet (In soccer terms, the "corner").

- When throwing in, the player doing the throwing cannot step on the line. Also, the opposing team must be 5 or more meters away from the player throwing in.

Fouls

- It is against the rules to do any dangerous actions such as block an opponent's path with a hand, arm, or leg, grab an opponent's arm, charge into them, purposefully collide with them, or trip them. Any such actions are considered a foul. The team that was fouled is does a throw-off from that location to resume play.

FINALLY, THE DAY OF THE PRACTICE MATCH WITH ANRI HIGH SCHOOL HAS ARRIVED.

GOOD WEATHER—

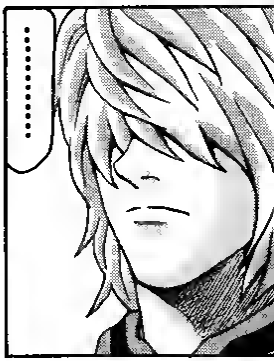
Ring 18 : Anri High School Appears!

YEAH, LET'S LEAVE HIM!!!
WHY DON'T WE JUST LEAVE HIM BEHIND?!
WHAAAT? WHAT THE HELL IS THAT IDIOT DOING?!
HANAGATA-KUN STILL ISN'T HERE

I REALLY OWE YOU GUYS!!
MA~~~~~N, I OVERSLEPT LIKE A MOTHERFUCKER!
SFX. TATTATTATTATTA

AND WAIT, IF YOU OVERSLEPT WHY'RE THERE SHADOWS UNDER YOUR EYES?!!
WAY TO SHOW UP AT WORK LATE LIKE YOU'RE AN EXECUTIVE!
HEEY, YOU'RE LATE, SUMME-EEER!!

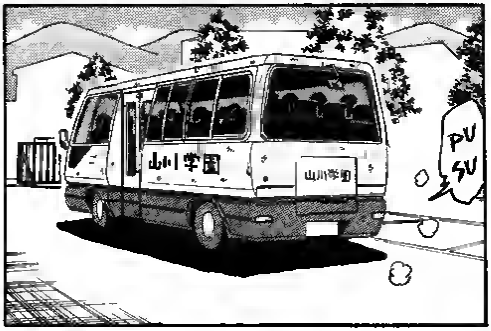
YEAH, RIGHT! JUST WHAT SORTA POSITION WERE YOU SLEEPIN' IN?!!
AH, THIS? I REAAALLY SLEPT ON IT WRONG..
AND HEY, WHY'S YOUR NECK BENT LIKE THAT?!
THAT'S A REACTION TO SUMMER'S DEFEAT ALLERGY
IT'S BEEN ONE WEEK NOW, HUH
CU

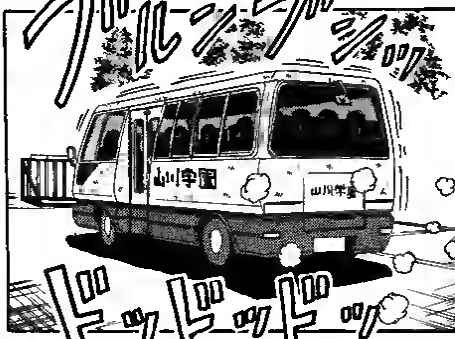

.....

SINCE THAT DAY.....
JUST LEAVE THAT TA ME!!
THERE'S A SHOPLIFTER!
DON'T FORGET YOUR BAAAGS!
おぉーっ
LET'S TAKE ANRI DOWN!!
EVERY-BODY, GET OOOON!
OOOKAY, SHALL WE GET MOVING?
UWAH! MAN, THIS BUS LOOKS LIKE CRAP!
SFX OOOH!
OKAY, LET'S GET ON THE BUS!!
HEY, SENSEI!
OKAY, WE'RE SHOVING OOOOOFF!!
SENSEEE! THIS BUS DOESN'T HAVE SEATBELTS!
SNACKS...? UH, WE'RE NOT GOING ON A TRIP...
Hey, hey, Toki! What snacks didja bring?
GYURU GYU GYU GYU GYU
FYU KYU KYU KYU
FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS EVERYOOONE!
WELL, ME, I FROZE A WATER BOTTLE! IT'S POCARI!

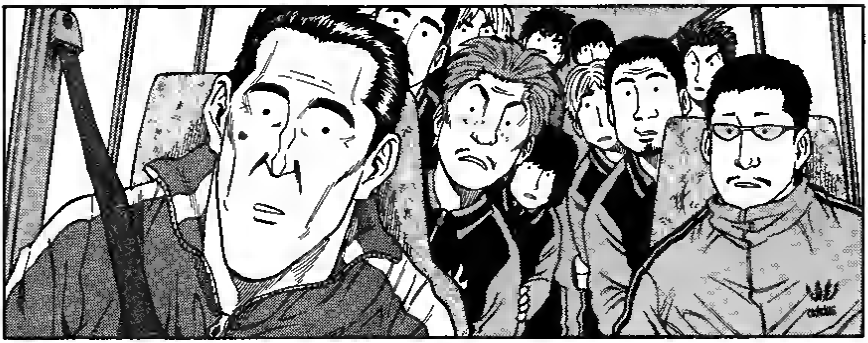
T/N: POCARI SWEAT IS A SPORTS DRINK

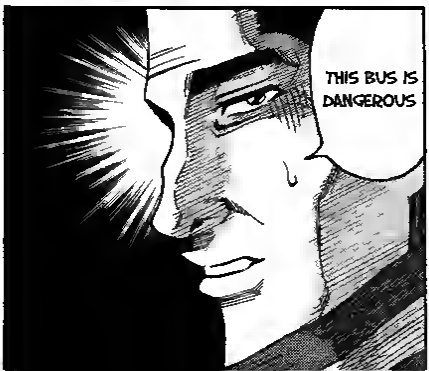
SFX: GYUGYUGYUGYUGYUGYU GYAKYUKYUKYUKYU…

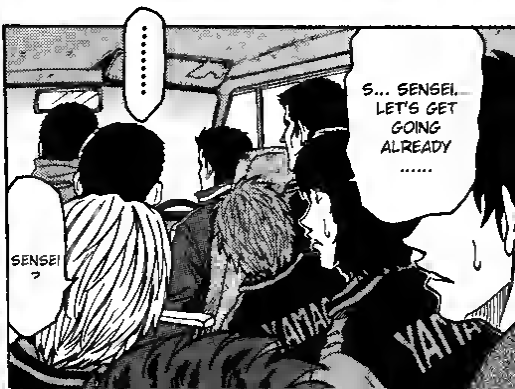




SFX: BURUN BUNN DOH DOH DOH

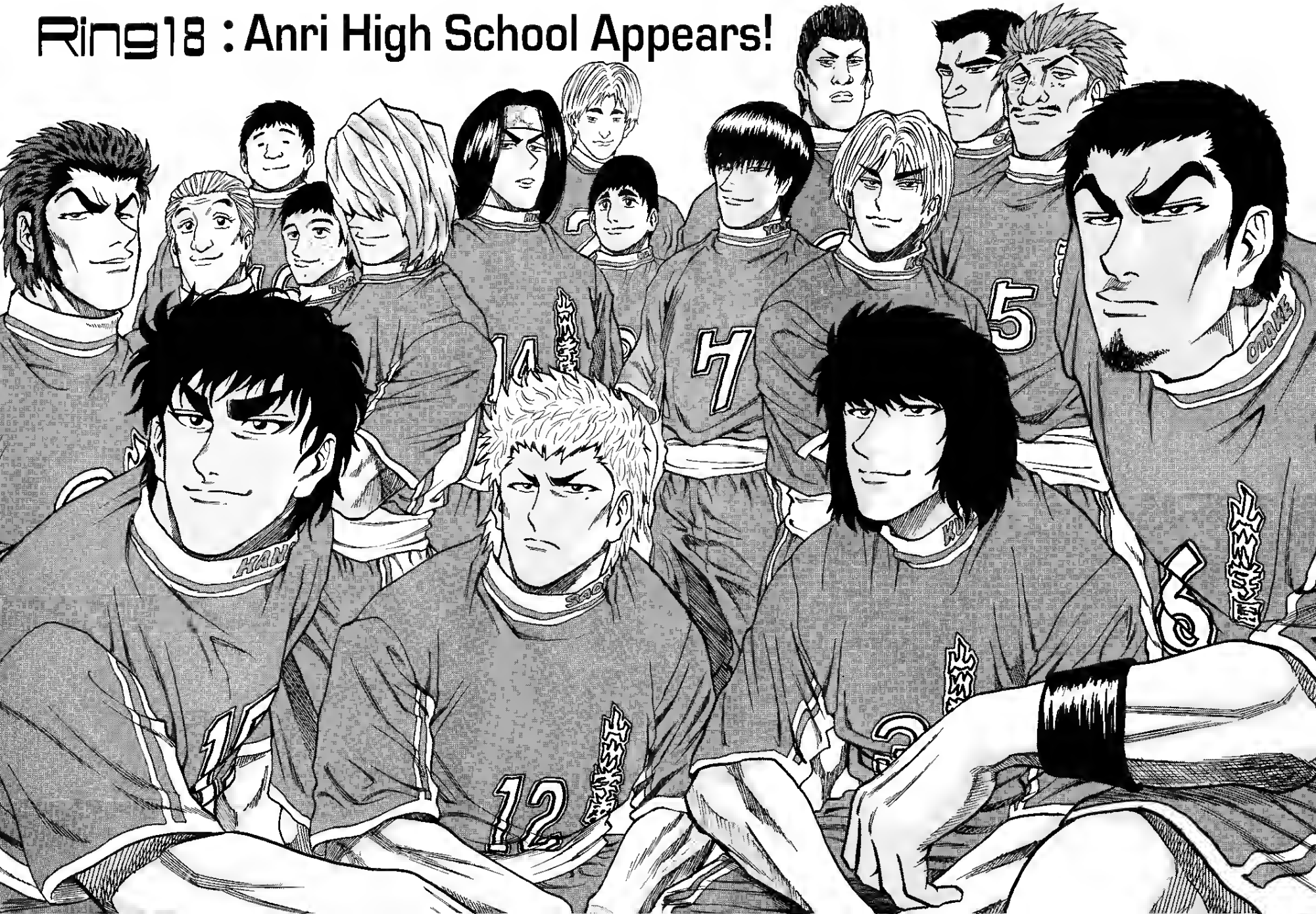


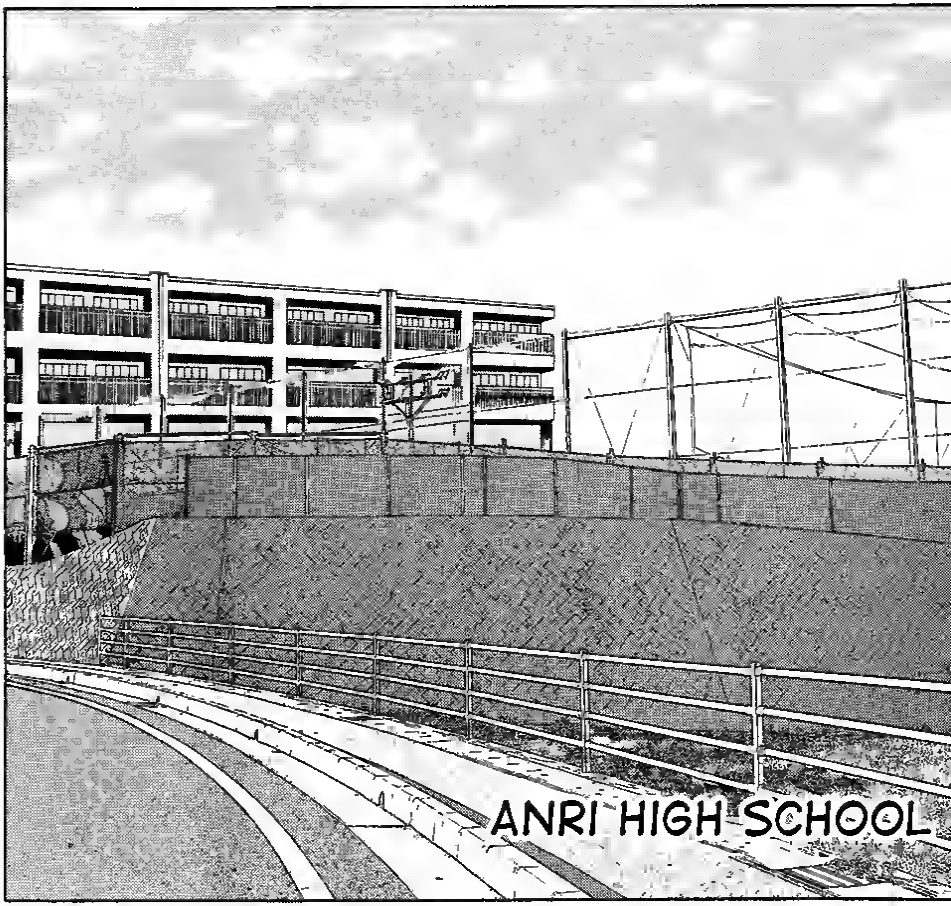


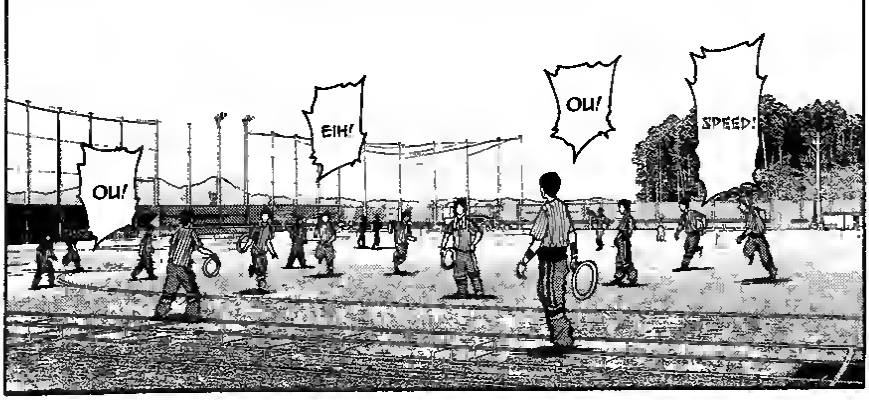


NO, IT'S OKAY! WE'LL WORK IT OUT SOMEHOW.
I THINK
WHAT'S DANGEROUS, SENSEI?!
HUH? WHAT IS?!
HEY, HAS THIS BUS BEEN INSPECTED RECENTLY AND EVERYTHI---NG?!
WORK IT OUT SOMEHOOOW?!
WE GO BY TRAIN TODAY.
WORST CASE SCE-NARIO
THE SOCCER TEAM AND THE BASEBALL TEAM AND THOSE GUYS ARE USING THE GOOD BUSES~~
SENSEI, DO WE HAVE ANY BETTER SCHOOL BUSES WE CAN USE?
QUIT COMPLAINING OR WE'RE LEAVING YOU BEHIND!!
HU~~~~~H? FOR REAL?!
THIS IS A REA~~~~LLY BAD OMEN FOR THE UPCOMING MATCH!
BURU RUN
AH, IT CAUGHT!
OKAY, PUUUSH!!
SFX WAAAAA
ANRI'S REA~~~~LLY FAR FROM THE TRAIN STATION!!
I DON'T WANA~~~!! I HATE THE TRAAAAAIN!!
1ST YEAAARS!! ALL OF YOU GO OUT AND PUSH THE BUUUUS!!!

Ring18 : Anri High School Appears!




ANRI HIGH SCHOOL


OU!
EIH!
OU!
SPEED!

DON'T FORGET TO FEINT!
FASTER!

EIH!
OU!

YAMAGAKU JUST GOT HEEEERE!!
EVERY-BODYYYY !!
OH!

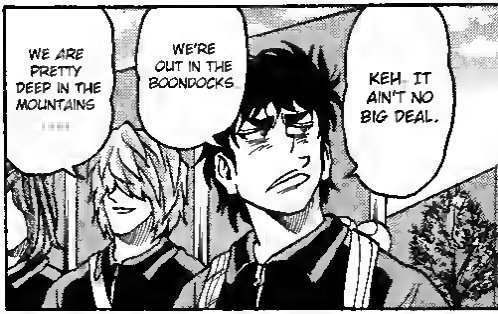
WELL IT'S QUITE FAR, AFTER ALL...
YES ...
HM ...
YAMAGAKU'S REALLY LATE, COACH...

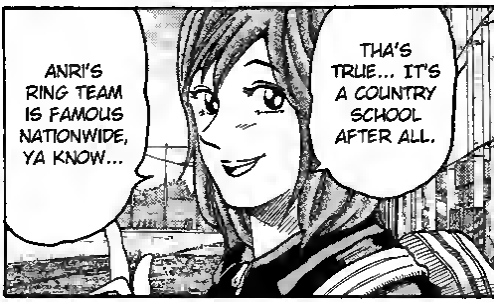
YAMAGAKU MADE IT...!!
IT'S YAMA-GAKU.
THEY'RE FINALLY HERE...!!
SFX: ZAWAH
SFX. VUVUVUUUU
LET'S HEAR SOME VOICES, 1ST YEARS!!
MAN, HILLS ARE ROUGH!!
NO WAA-AAAY!
PUT SOME SPIRIT INTO IT AND PUUUUUSH!!
SFX. BUUUUUU
HOLD ON, YOU PIECE 'A JUUUNK!!
OOOKAY, JUST A LITTLE MOORE!
AW MAN, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA STOP!
ORAA!
HEAVE-HO! HEAVE-HO!
WHAT IS THAT?
HEAVE-HO! HEAVE-HO!
HM?
SFX. VUVUVUVU
HEAVE-HO! HEAVE-HO!!
AW MAN, I'M GONNA FART!
HOOO OOOO !!
BUH
SFX VUVUVU
MUSTER UP YOUR LAST OUNCES OF STRE-EEEENGTH !!
JUST A LITTLE FURTHER GUUUUYS !!

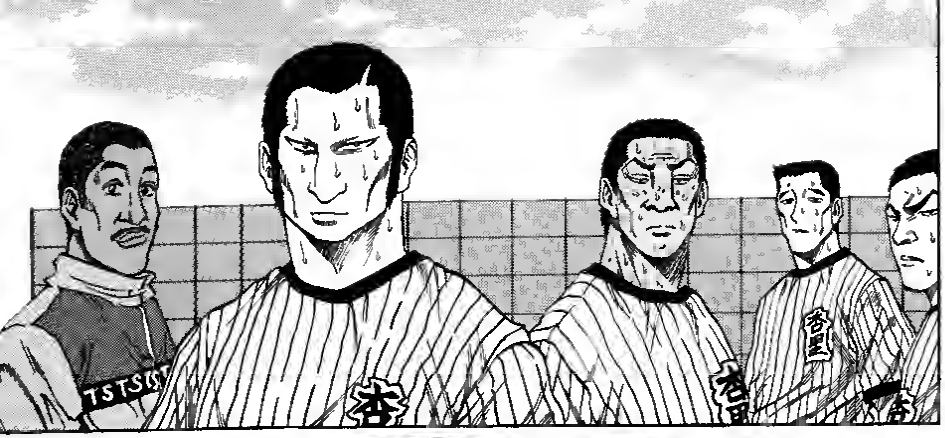
FOR REAL? WE SERIOUSLY MADE IT?!
THANK FUCKING GOOOOD!
ALL RIGHT! WE MADE IIIIT!!
WE MADE IIIIIT!!
OOOOOKAY! OKAY! AAALLL RIGHT! STOOOP!!
AW MAN, I THINK I'M GONNA TEAR UP!!
わ
あ
あ
あ
あ
あ
SFX. YUUUUH
WHAT THE HELL?!
WH... WHAT ...?
I FEEL LIKE I'VE GROWN UP A BIT FROM THAT!!
AND AFTER WE ALMOST COLLAPSED SO MANY TIMES ALONG THE WAY...
YOU CAN DO ANYTHING IF YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO IT, HUH?!
わーい
AW MA~~~N, WE MADE I~~~T!
I'M SERI-OUSLY MOVED
SFX. ZAH
Yeah!
OOOOKAY, LET'S GO!!
I HAVEN'T BEEN TO ANRI IN A WHILE...
山川学園
山川学園

SFX: ZORO ZORO (CROWD MOVING)

NOT JUST ANYBODY CAN GET ONTO THE FAMED ANRI RING TEAM.
THEY'RE REALLY SELECTIVE ...
ONLY THE BEST PLAYERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY ARE ALLOWED TO JOIN.






TSTS(!)

What ?!
WELL, WE'VE GOT...
H... HEY, HOLD ON A SEC... THEY'VE GOT A COACH THAT'S CLEARLY A FOREIGNER.....
INTENSE ABOUT THIS...
I GUESS THEY'RE REALLY ...
U.... UWA~~~~ THEY'RE REALLY STARING AT US.....

HEEEY!
G...
.....
GOOD MORNING!

IS THE 1ST STRING IN A MEETING ...?
THOSE ARE ALL 1ST YEARS, RIGHT.....?
LET'S GO ASK.
CUTe

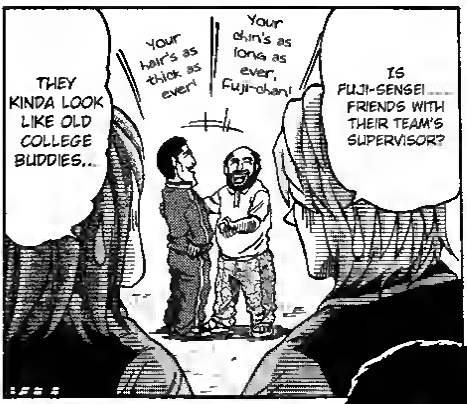
... YES,
AH ...
YOU GUYS'RE 1ST YEARS, RIGHT? NICE TO MEET YA...!
IT'S GOOD TO MEET YOU!
WHERE'D THE 2ND AND 3RD YEARS GO?
I'M SURPRISED HOW SHORT HE IS. BUT HE DEFINITELY HAS AN INTENSITY ABOUT HIM
IT'S THE YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE AKA TAICHIROU ...!
.....IT'S AKA
THEY'RE IN A MEETING RIGHT NOW...
AH ...
AH, SENPAIS !!
HM?
<HUUU-UUUSU!!
<HUU-SU!

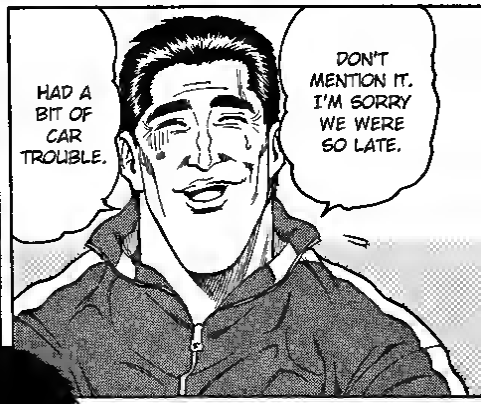
ザッ
CHUUSSU!
CHUUSU!

SFX. ZAH

AND THE ANRI MAIN UNIT SHOWS THEM-SELVES!
IIISSU!!
O..... Ooh...

OUT HERE TO THE COUNTRY, FUJI-CHAN!
EY~~~~~ SORRY FOR MAKIN' YA COME ALL THE WAY
ANRI HIGH SCHOOL RING TEAM SUPERVISOR
DAIMONJI AKIRA
SFX WAHHAHHAHHA


THEY KINDA LOOK LIKE OLD COLLEGE BUDDIES...
Your hair's as thick as ever!
Your chin's as long as ever, Fuji-chan!
IS FUJI-SENSEI ..... FRIENDS WITH THEIR TEAM'S SUPERVISOR?


HAD A BIT OF CAR TROUBLE.
DON'T MENTION IT. I'M SORRY WE WERE SO LATE.

Hayami ...!
GO EASY ON US TODAY, OKAY,

I SORTA..... DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU AT FIRST WITH THAT BEARD.
Ootake ...!
AMAGAKU
I HOPE YOU GO EASY ON US...
WELL, AT LEAST TRY NOT TO INJURE US...!
ANRI HIGH SCHOOL RING CAPTAIN
HAYAMI SHUUICHI

INJURE...?
HM?

INJURIES .....
GUH NICE
SPEAKING OF .....

I SURE AS HELL DON'T WANNA LOOK AT YOUR FACE ...
I DIDN'T MISS YOU AT ALL...
ANRI HIGH SCHOOL 2ND YEAR
DATE KAORU

I MISSED YOU, DATEEEE ...
YOU BASTARD... HEY, YOU...

DAMMIT, CUT IT OUT, AKAAAA!!
HEEEY, STOP, DATEEE!!
FINE, LET'S GO, YOU PIECE 'A SHIT!
Ya akanbou !!
Wanna go, dammit?!
THE FUCK'S WITH YOU, MAAAN?! WANT BE TO BEAT THE SHIT OUTTA THAT FACE 'A YOURS AGAIN?!!
URAA
Eh?
I DON'T WANNA SEE YOUR FRICKIN' FACE!!
AAAAAH?! WHAT'D YOU JUST SAY, FUCKFACE?!!
HEY GUYS, STOP THOSE TWO!!

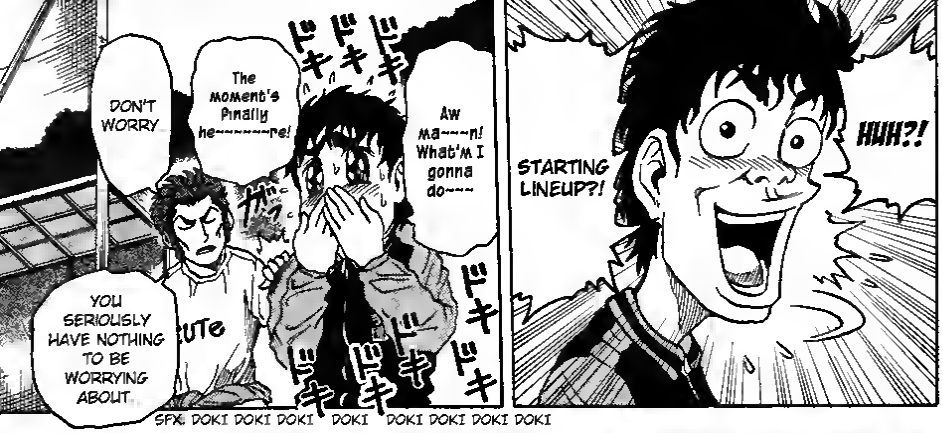
SFX: ZUDADADA

T/N: AKANBOU IS ANOTHER WORD FOR "BABY" THAT STARTS WITH HIS NAME.

SFX: WAAAA
HM?
BUT MAN, LOOK AT THAT, FUJI-CHAN.
WHY ARE YOU GUYS EVEN FIGHTING ANYHOW?!
AKA-CHAN! AKA-CHAN! AKA-CHAN!
AAAAH?! I'LL SAY IT AS MANY TIMES AS YOU FUCKIN' WANT!!
わぁぁ
JUST TRY SAYIN' THAT AGAIN, YOU PUSSY BITCH!!
WHAT GOT YOU GUYS SO WORKED UP?!
C'MON DATE, STOP!!
BE AN ADULT!
AKA-CHIN, STOP !!!T!!

DON'T JUST REMINISCE, PLEASE HELP US STOP THEM, SENSEI!!!
YEAH... SURE TAKES ME BACK .....
WE USED TO FIGHT LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME WHEN WE WERE SCHOOL KIDS, REMEMBER.....?
HEEEEY!

AWE-SOME!!
WOH!
These are private Ring grounds!!
T. . THAT'S ANRI FOR YA.
THE NATIONAL-LEVEL TEAMS ARE REALLY SOMETHIN' ELSE ....
SENSEI, LET'S MAKE PRIVATE GROUNDS OF OUR OWN.....
ER, NO, BEFORE THAT, LET'S GET A PRIVATE BUS!
FOR NOW, LET'S GET READY FOR THE MATCH ...
NOW AN-NOUNCING THE STARTING LINEUP!



SFX: DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI

I'LL START WITH THE BEGINNING 7 ON THE A TEAM.
UHHHHH..... A AND B TEAM, INCLUDING THE PLAYERS ON THE BENCH, WILL BE MADE UP OF 11 PEOPLE EACH.

NUMBER 1, CENTER BACK, OONO MASASHI.
HERE...
NUMBER 2, LEFT WING, OGAWA KYUUICHIROU.
HERE!
NUMBER 3, SIDE COMMANDER, KURITA KANAME.
HERE.
Here!
NUMBER 4, RIGHT WING, KATAYAMA KOUTAROU.
NUMBER 9 MAIN COMMANDER, AKA TAICHIROU!
RIIIIGHT HERE!

NUMBER 7 FORWARD, YUMIBA TAKAYUKI.
NEXT, 4 PEOPLE ON THE BENCH FOR THE A TEAM...
I'M COMING UP SOO~~~N!
I'M COMING U~~~~P
SFX. DOKI DOKI DOKI

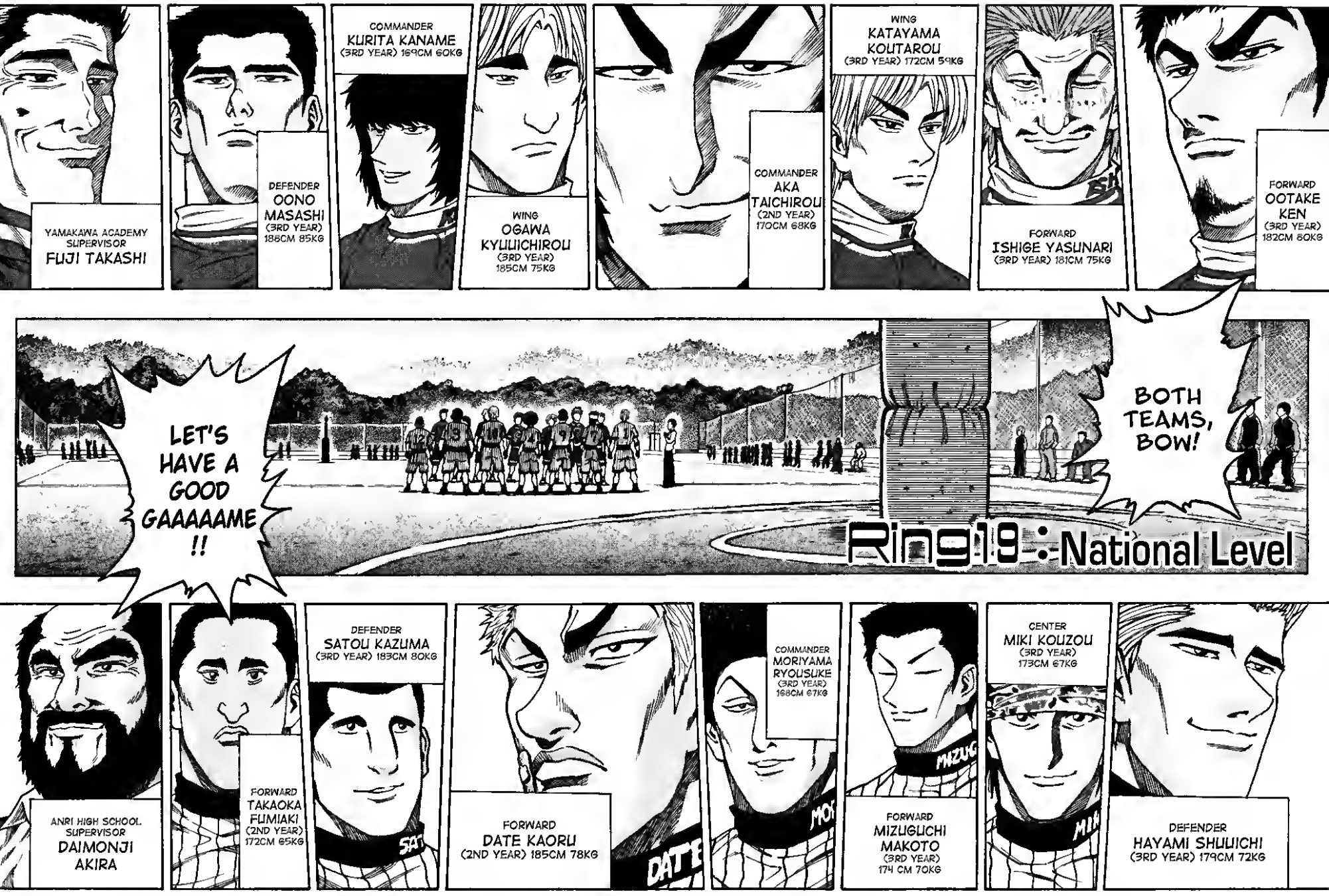
HEERE!
NUMBER 10, DEFENSE, SEKI RYOUTA.
NUMBER 11 COMMANDER
NUMBER 8, DEFENSE, SHIMIZU KIYOTAKE.
HERE.

WELL, THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED
!
...Saori Yousuke!
HERE...!
MAN I'M LATE...
ANY MINUTE NO~~~W

SO THIS YEAR THEY'RE OF COURSE CHAMPIONSHIP CANDIDATES AS WELL.
THE TEAM YOU'RE FACING DID GREAT IN LAST YEAR'S INTERHIGH AND 2ND IN PREFECTURALS ...

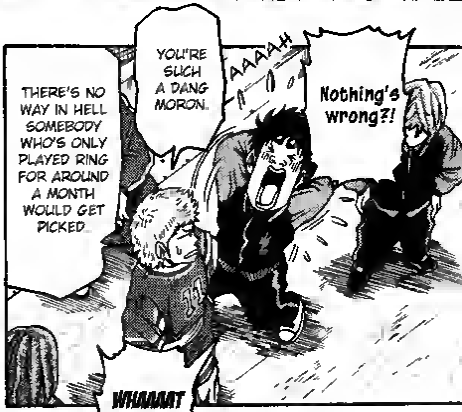
TRULY WORTHY OPPONENTS .....
LET'S HIT 'EM WITH ALL WE'VE GOT...!

ALLLLLL RIGHT, LET'S GET STARTED!
ALL RIIIIGHT, LET'S DO THIS!!
RIGHT!
SFX. ZAH
THE MATCH OF YAMAKAWA ACADEMY VS ANRI HIGH SCHOOL WILL NOW BEBGIN!
NOW THEN,


YAMAKAWA ACADEMY SUPERVISOR
FUJI TAKASHI
DEFENDER
OONO MASASHI
(3RD YEAR)
186CM 85KG
COMMANDER
KURITA KANAME
(3RD YEAR) 169CM 60KG
WING
OGAWA KYUUICHIROU
(3RD YEAR)
185CM 75KG
COMMANDER
AKA TAICHIROU
(2ND YEAR)
170CM 68KG
WING
KATAYAMA KOUTAROU
(3RD YEAR) 172CM 59KG
FORWARD
ISHIGE YASUNARI
(3RD YEAR) 181CM 75KG
FORWARD
OOTAKE KEN
(3RD YEAR)
182CM 80KG
LET'S HAVE A GOOD GAAAAAME !!
BOTH TEAMS, BOW!
Ring 19 - National Level
ANRI HIGH SCHOOL SUPERVISOR
DAIMONJI AKIRA
FORWARD
TAKAOKA FUMIAKI
(2ND YEAR)
172CM 65KG
DEFENDER
SATOU KAZUMA
(3RD YEAR) 183CM 80KG
FORWARD
DATE KAORU
(2ND YEAR) 185CM 78KG
COMMANDER
MORIYAMA RYOUSUKE
(3RD YEAR)
168CM 67KG
FORWARD
MIZUGUCHI MAKOTO
(3RD YEAR)
174 CM 70KG
CENTER
MIKI KOUZOU
(3RD YEAR)
173CM 67KG
DEFENDER
HAYAMI SHUUICHI
(3RD YEAR) 179CM 72KG

SFX: PURU... PURU... (QUIVERING)

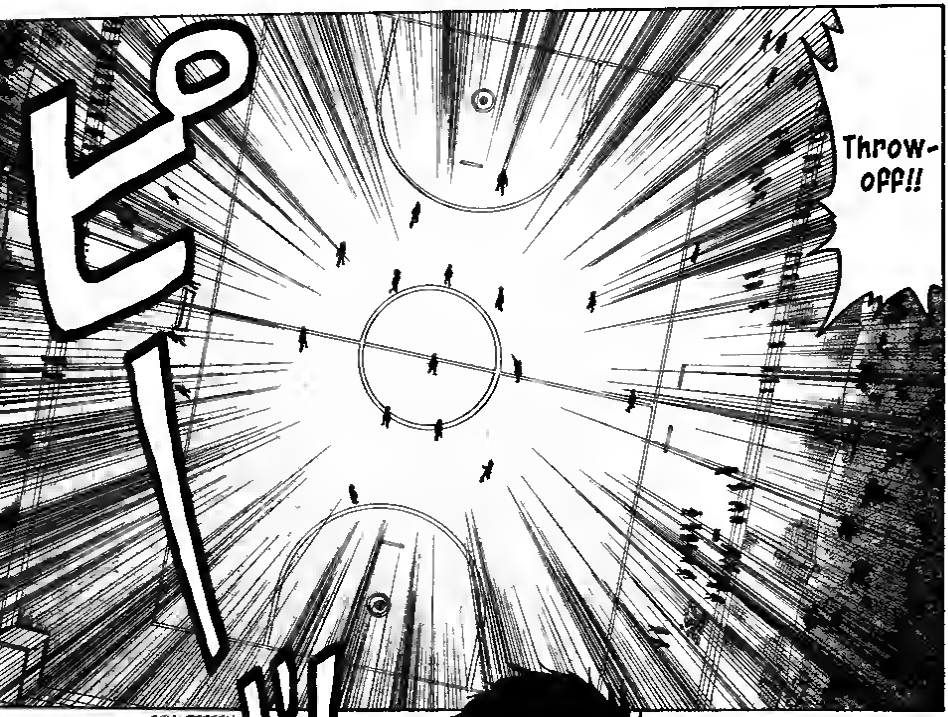
THAT'S MESSED UP. AIN'T IT? THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING WRONG HERE.
HUH?!
SUPER-VISOOOOOR! WHY AM I NOT ON THAT TEAM?!
NOTHING'S WRONG


THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL SOMEBODY WHO'S ONLY PLAYED RING FOR AROUND A MONTH WOULD GET PICKED
YOU'RE SUCH A DANG MORON.
AAAAH
Nothing's wrong?!
WHAAAT ?!!

YAMA GAKUU UUUU!
FIGHT!!!
WHUH ...?
SFX: WAH
GOOOOO !!!
OOOO-OOOH.
HMPH
YAMAGAKU'S REALLY INTO THIS...
GOOOOO, SERI-OUSLY !--?
HAYA
4
12

IF WE UNDER-ESTIMATE THEM, WE'LL BE DEVOURED ...!!
NOW THEY'RE 3RD YEARS... AND THEY HAVE THE GENIUS AKA ON TOP OF THAT. WE'LL REALLY NEED TO PAY ATTENTION TO THIS YEAR'S YAMAGAKU...
WHEN OOTAKE-KUN AND HIS GRADE ENTERED THE SCHOOL 2 YEARS AGO...
IT WAS FEARED THAT YAMAGAKU'S ERA MAY BE COMING
ANYHOW, IS IKKI HERE YET?
YOU IDIOT! CARELESSNESS AND PRIDE BRING ABOUT DEFEAT!
YAMGAKU'S NO MATCH FOR US, SUPERVISOR!
IT'LL BE FI~~~NE. WE'RE A CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM THIS YEAR!
THIS IS SERIOUSLY GETTING ME ON EDGE...
GEEZ... WHAT'S OUR A-TEAM REGULAR DOING.....
HE SAID HE'D BE HERE AROUND AN HOUR LATE...
LOOKS LIKE HE OVERSLEPT ...
ANRI HIGH SCHOOL 2ND YEAR
NODA CHIGUSA

*THIS IS DETERMINED BY COIN-TOSS (LIKE SOCCER).

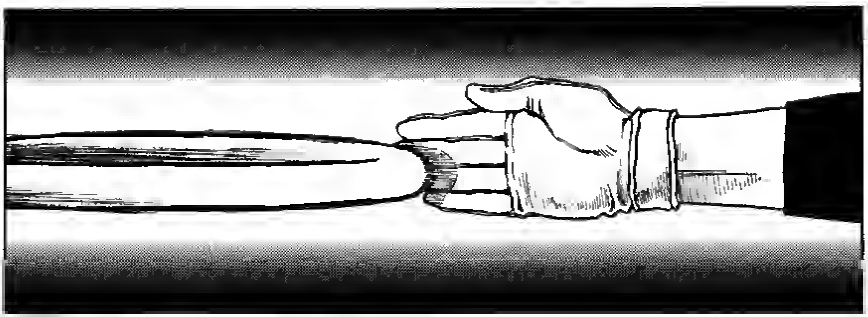


SFX: PIIIIH

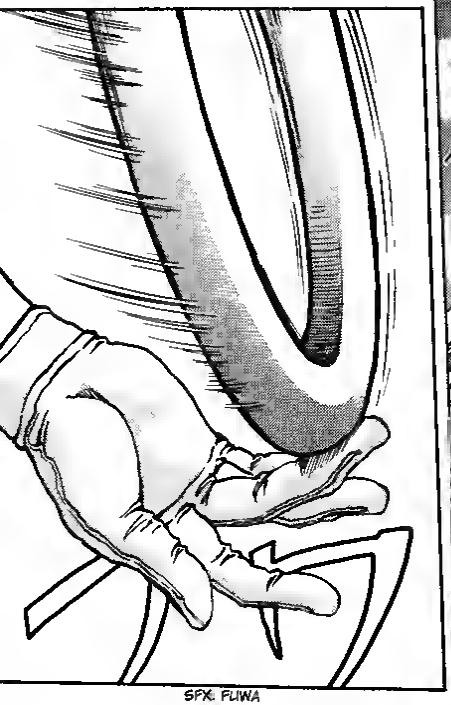
GO, GO, LET'S GO, LET'S GO, ANRI!!!
GO, GO, LET'S GO, LET'S GO, ANRI!!
Push, push, Anri!!!
Push, push, Anri!!
Move, move, Anri!!
Move, move, Anri!!!
MOVE, MOVE, ANRI! PUSH, PUSH, ANRI!
AND MAN, THEY HAVE WA------Y MORE PEOPLE THAN WE DO...
SO THAT'S WHAT NATIONAL-LEVEL CHEERS ARE LIKE...?
O..... OOH, AWESOME .....
MAGAKU

HEEY, SUMMER! YOU ALONE CAN LEAVE!!
KEH. SO LAME. I'M NOT DOIN' THAT...
G... GO GET 'E~~M, YAMAGAKU ~~~~!!
WE CAN'T LET THEM BEAT US!!
HEY, YOU GUYS, DON'T JUST STAND THERE ADMIRING, LET'S HEAR SOME VOICES!
WHAT SORTA CHEER IS THAT?
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH!!
THE PITCHER'S SHAKIN' IN HIS BOOTS!!
HEY, THE OPPOSING PITCHER'S SCAAAAARED!!
A~~~ ~IGH, GEEZ!! OKAY!!
Hoi!
OOOOOOKAY, LET'S GO!
Aka!
SFX: SHU

SFX: SU...



SFX: SHURURURU



SFX: FUWA

SFX: GYURURURU

YES, SIR!
DATE! KOUZOU!
BOTH OF YOU, CHECK HIM!
SO AKA'S THE COMMANDER ...?
SFX: DAH
Hoh!
Yeah, it's no problem!
KU RU KU RU
YOU SURE ?
!
KURI-SAN, I CAN CARRY THIS ON MY OWN.
SFX: ZAH
!
THEY'RE COMING !!
DON'T PLAY AROUND, AKA!!

GUH
Woop-
SFX. BAH
SFX: DON
SFX: GUIH
—sie!
—And ...!

BUT HE PULLED THE GUY'S ARM FOR AN INSTANT.
BY USING JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF FORCE AND WITH JUST THE RIGHT ANGLE, THE REF DIDN'T SEE IT,
IT WAS DIRTY, BUT IT WORKED ...
...IT WAS A FOUL...
ER, HOW'D AKA-SENPAI EVEN GET PAST THAT FIRST GUY...?!
THEY'RE COVERING HIM REALLY FAST!!
HUH?
SFX: ZUOOOO
YOUR PLAYS LIKE THAT ARE WHAT PISS ME OFF...
.....
I WISH YOU'D JUST CALL IT A REALLY TIGHT PLAY..... IF THE WHISTLE DOESN'T BLOW, IT'S A GOOD PLAY.
FOUL-TAROU .....

I'M GONNA LEAVE YOU IN THE DUST...!!
HEH.
YOU AIN'T TAKIN' A SINGLE STEP PAST ME...!!
LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU!!
DON'T STOP RUNNING, AKA!!
SFX: WAH
He's sur-rounded !!
It's an "Othello" !!
!!

CARRY IT TOGETHER !!
FOLLOW HIM UP, KURI!!
OTHELLO ?
YEAH.
IN RING WHEN YA GET CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO PLAYERS LIKE THAT, IT'S CALLED "OTHELLO".
IT'S THE POSITION WHERE THE RING GETS STOLEN MOST OFTEN FROM.
'CAUSE A PERSON CAN'T SEE BEHIND THEM.
DAMN.
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS.

SFX: DON
MUO

RAA
UWAAA!
HE WENT STRAIGHT THROUGH!!!

HE'S SO FAST!!!!
H...

UOH ?!

NOW THROW IT, FAST, AKA!!
NICE!
WOAAAAH! HE FORCED HIS WAY OUT OF THAT PINCER!!

For real ?!
MAAAAAN, I'M REALLY CORNERED NOW!!
SFX. ZAH

BREAKING THROUGH THIS DEFENSE ALONE IS A HERCULEAN TASK..... THAT'S WHY I TOLD HIM TO THROW IT FAST.
THIS IS ANRI HIGH SCHOOL'S ACTIVE PRESS.

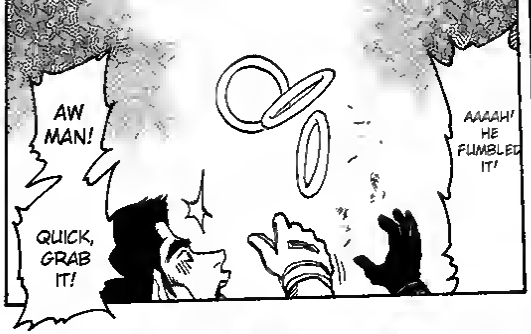
IT'S INSANE HOW FAST BACKUP CAME!!
DID THEY PREDICT THAT HE'D GET PAST THEM?!!

BUT WE'VE GOT "HEIGHT"... HIS PASS SHOULD MAKE IT...!

WELL THAT'S BECAUSE ANRI'S TEAM HAS GREAT DEFENSE.....
MM .....
THE ONLY CHOICE HERE IS TO GET AROUND THEM WITH A PASS.

Ooh!
OONO-SAN'S 188CM TALL SO HE CAN GET OVER THEM!!
THROW IT IN FRONT OF THE GOAL!!
AKA!
SFX: DAH
IT'S A BATTLE IN FRONT OF THE GOAL!!
WE'VE GOT TALL GUYS IN THE MIDDLE, YAMAGAKU!!
SFX: BIH
We can score first with this!
THIS LINEUP
MA——N,

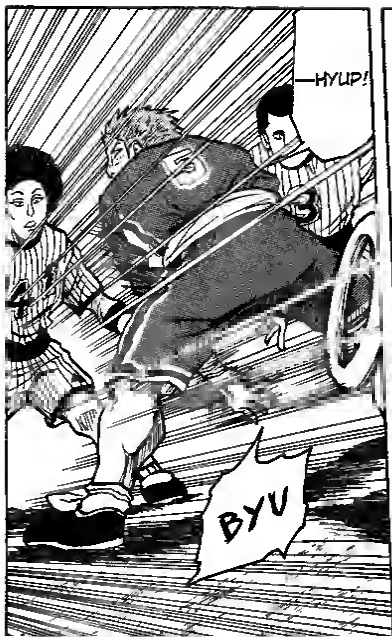
DON'T ALL JUMP AT THE SAME TIME!!
WE'RE AT A HEIGHT DISADVANTAGE!
BOTH TEAMS ARE GONNA GRAB FOR IT!!
IT'S UP IN FRONT OF THE GOAL!!
SFX: BABAH
UOH!
ALL RIGHT!
Now, jump!!
LIWAAA! YUP, YAMAGAKU'S GOT IT!!
YEA AAA AAH !!
NOW SHOOT, OONO!!


AW MAN!
QUICK, GRAB IT!
AAAAH! HE FUMBLED IT!

Muh!
UOH!

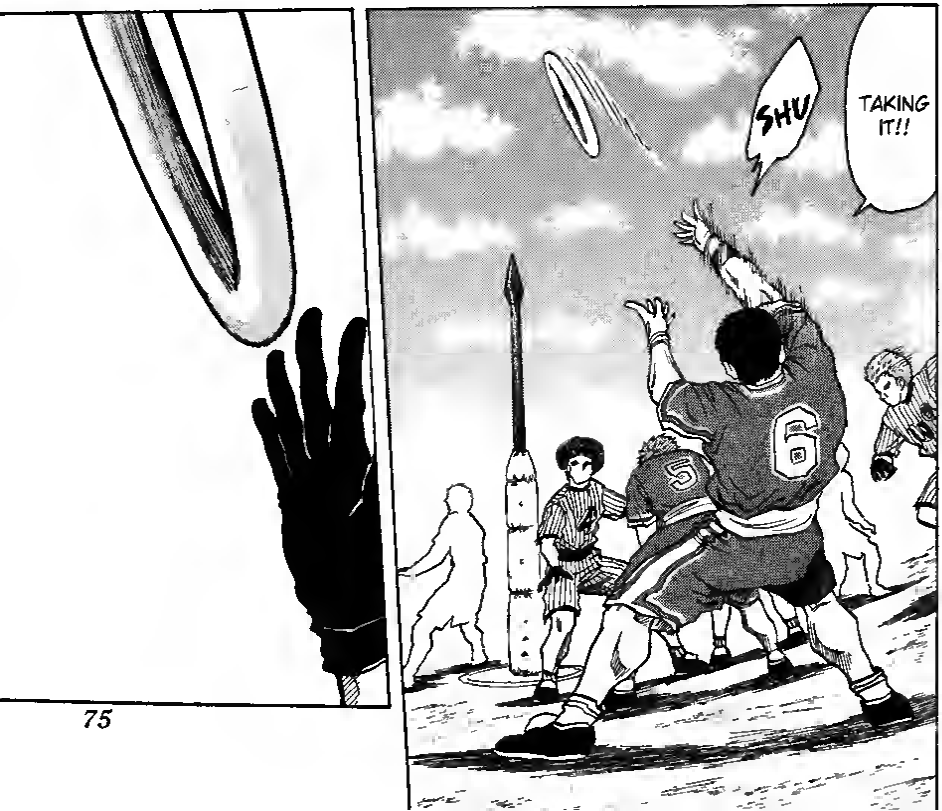
Nice, IshIge!!
UORAH!
WATCH OUT BELOW YOU!

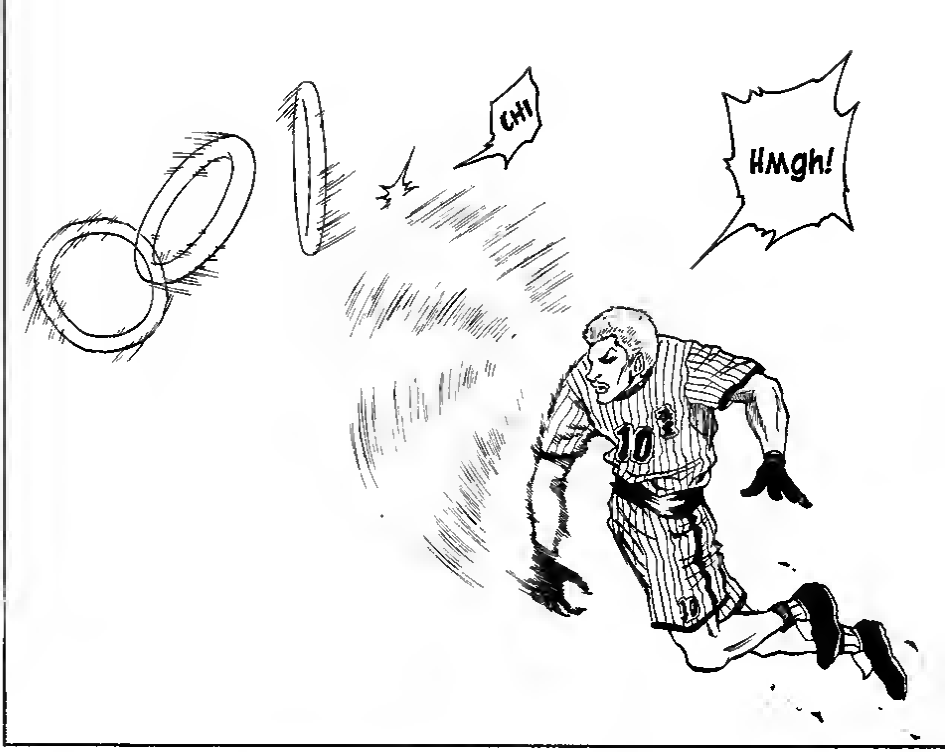
SFX: GAH BAH


—HYUP!
BYU

SFX ZUDA
Pres-sure!!
UOH

KEN!!
SFX BASHI

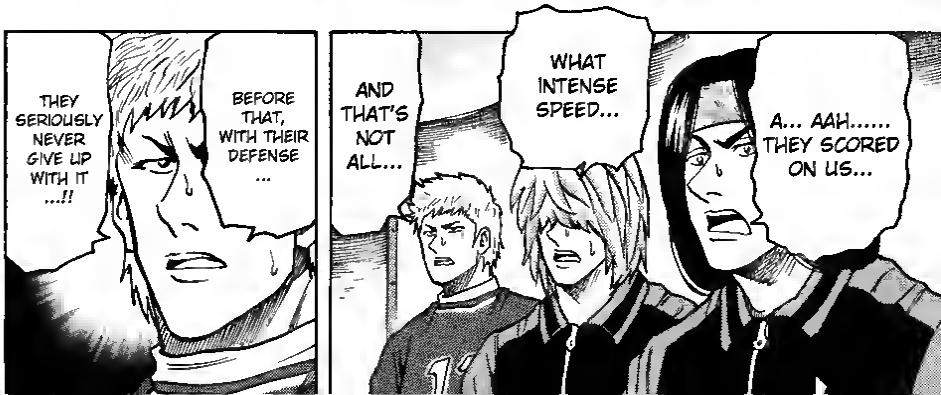

SHU
TAKING IT!!



SFX. BASHIH

TH...
UWAAAA! THEY TOOK IIIIIIIIIT!!!
THEIR DEFENSES ARE GOOD!!!
THAT'S IT, RUN!!
SFX DON
ANRI'S FAST!!
UOO !!
BA AAA ACK !!

UWAA AAAA! THEY SCOOORED !!!
BAAAA AAAAM !!
ANRI TAKES THE FIRST POINT!!
Ou!
NICE ONE!!
All riiii-ight!
THAT'S ONE POINT!!


THEY SERIOUSLY NEVER GIVE UP WITH IT ...!!
BEFORE THAT, WITH THEIR DEFENSE ...
AND THAT'S NOT ALL...
WHAT INTENSE SPEED...
A... AAH..... THEY SCORED ON US...

BUT IF YOU WANT TO KEEP WINNING MATCHES AND GO AFTER TITLES, IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.....
IF ALL YOU WANT IS TO GET THE SINGLE POINT IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES, YOU JUST NEED TO HONE YOUR ATTACK POWER...
ANRI'S SPECIALITY FORM HAS SHOWN ITSELF...!
A SWIFT ATTACK FROM AN IRON DEFENSE ...
WITHOUT A STABLE DEFENSE, A KING CAN'T MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF .....!!
WHAT YOU NEED MOST OF ALL IS "DEFENSE" ...!!
NOW THEY'RE GETTING COCKY...
SO THIS IS NATIONAL LEVEL, HUH.....?
.....

- Both the offense and defense aren't allowed to touch the poll. Also, you are not allowed to set foot inside the goal circle. If the defensive side purposefully touches the poll or steps inside the circle, the offensive side is given 1 free-throw. On the other hand, if the offensive-side performs the same foul, then the defense does a throw-off from the place the foul occurred.

- Blocking the ring in mid-air when it's shot by an opponent is allowed, but once the ring starts to fall in mid-air, if the right is higher than the height of the poll (3 meters) that ring can not be touched (Like interference in basketball). However, just like in basketball, if a teammate of the player that shot the ring is close to the goal, they can catch it and shoot it straight-away (Like an alley-oop in Basketball).

- When switching in and out players, if the subbing-in player is standing on the court before player subbing-out has not passed the sub line or is in any way not completely out of the court, it is a foul (A sub-referee always checks). However, regarding substituting an injured player, by the main referee's discretion, the injured player can leave the court by whatever sideline is closest.

THE TEAM THAT'S MADE IT TO NATIONALS MANY TIMES IN A ROW SHOWS THEIR SKILLS JUST LIKE THAAAAT!!
THE FIRST POINT GOES TO ANRIIIII!!
Ring20: Aka's Weakness
YAMAGAKU
ANRI
0 0 1 0 1
PARA
SFX: WAAAAAAAAA
ALLLL RIGHT!
DON'T LET UP!!
KEEP STRICT CHECKING THEM JUST LIKE WE HAVE SO FAR!!
MAKE SURE YOU CONCENTRATE AFTER SCORING!!
OU!
LET'S KEEP MOVING IN FROM THE FRONT!
DAMN.
OKAY, BOUNCE BACK!
THE OPPONENT'S ARE PRESSING US!
LET'S GO WITH SOME QUICK PASSES!
AND LET'S HEAR SOME VOICES!!
ALL RIGHT!

Ring20 : Aka's Weakness

I WANNA GO IN NOW!!
LIKE HELL I CAN WAIT 2 WHOLE YEAAARS!!
IN ROUND 2 YEARS.
YER GONNA GET YER CHANCE EVENTUALLY.
'EY, C'MON... DON' GO MAKIN' SO MUCH NOISE...
IN FACT, I FEEL LIKE WE SHOULD LOSE ANY MATCH I'M NOT IN!!
THIS GUY'S REALLY TWISTED AIN'T 'E

FOR OUR STRATEGY GOING FORWARD
WHADDA YA CALL IT, ER ...
I MEAN, IT LOOKS LIKE AT THIS POINT...
RIGHT ?!
AT THIS RATE WE'RE TOTALLY GONNA GET STOMPED!!
SUPERVISOR, THIS IS REALLY BAD, AIN'T IT?
RIGHT?!

THERE IT IS!!
THE PRESS !!
SFX: ZAZAH!

C'MON!
AKA!
PASS IT, AKA!

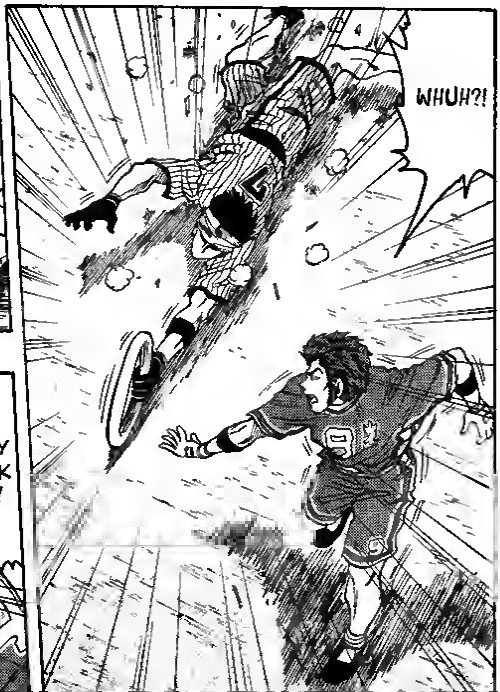
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, DAMMIT!

SFX: BIH
!!
SFX: BABAH

UWAA! HE FORCED HIS WAY THROOOUGH !!
THAT AKA GUY SURE IS OBSTINATE !!
GYURURURU
SFX OOOOO
IF I GET THROUGH ALL OF 'EM...
LIKE HELL
YOU IDIOT! YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY!!
THE PRESS IS GONNA CONTINUE!!

we'd ever let that happen!!
SFX ZUZAAA
BASH!

WE'RE NOT GOING EASY ON YOU
NO WAY WE'RE GONNA JUST LET YOU KEEP DOING THAT OVER AND OVER.


WHUH?!

YOU FRIGGIN' IDIOOOOOT !!
THEY TOOK IT!!

A QUICK ATTACK!!
UOH!
SFX: UOH
YEAH, THAT'S ANRI'S AWESOME SPEED!
THERE IT IS!!
THEY'RE ALL JUST SIMPLY REALLY FREAKIN' FAST!!

!
IN THEIR 1ST YEARS .....
THERE SHOULD BE A STARTING MEMBER
1ST YEARS ?
YES...

HMPH?
ARE THEY?

T-
TEN SECOND-LEVEL?!
A BOY THAT CAN SUPPOSEDLY RUN 100 METERS AT THE 10-SECOND LEVEL!
IMAGAWA IKKI...
SFX: DOH
!
GIMME THAT BACK!
SFX. DAH
BASTARD ...
UO WA AA!

Yamagaku number 9, charging!!
AAAAH! IT'S A FOUL!!
I DIDN' PUSH HIM!!
WHAT ?!
SFX: PIIIIH
SFX: WAAAAAAAAAAA
NICE!
HEY, REFEREE, I DIDN'T FREAKING PUSH HIM!
QUIT IT, AKA!!
SFX: PAN PAN
OKAY, FORGET IT!
EVEN IF YOU TAKE THEM ON, YOU CAN'T WIN IF THE G P'S N RROW!
YOU IDIOT! I TOLD YOU WE NEED TO PASS IT AROUND!!
TH... THAT B STA~~ ~~RD!
DEFENSE GUYS, DEFENSE!!

DON'T JUST CRUSH OUR CHANCE TO LAUNCH A QUICK ATTACK, YOU IDIOT!!!
DAMMIT, DATE!!!
SFX: AA
SFX: GOA
THINK BEFORE YOU MAKE A PLAY, DAMMIT!!
Y... YES, SIR...
WE'RE WINNING ON NUMBER OF OFFENSIVE PLAYERS, SO WE'VE GOTTA STAND FIRM THERE!!
IF YOU DO THAT AGAIN, I'M SWITCHING YOU OUT!!
BUT WHAT THE HELL ARE WE GONNA DO IF YOU STOP THE PLAY AND WE GO BACK TO DEFENSE?!!
DATE
SFX: GOOOO
BUT IF YOU'RE NEGLIGENT OF SOMETHING FUNDAMENTAL OR DO A PLAY THAT'S EVEN A LITTLE BIT FAINTHEARTED,
THOUGH APPARENTLY IF YOU DO A PROACTIVE PLAY, EVEN IF YOU MESS UP, HE WON'T SAY ANYTHING...
THEN THEY SAY HE STARTS SCREAMING LIKE HE'S SUDDENLY A DIFFERENT PERSON
ゴオオオ
WAS THAT LAST PLAY THAT BAD...?
O... OO~~~ THE OTHER TEAM'S SUPERVISOR SURE IS SCARY...
ANRI'S DEMON SUPERVISOR IS FAMOUS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY .....

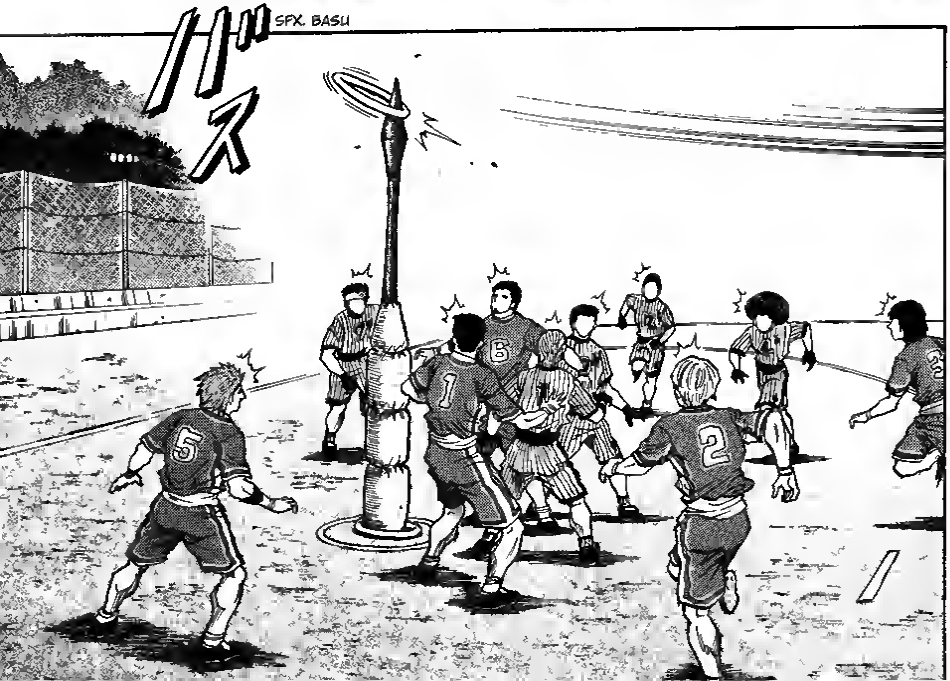
OH YEAH .. JUS' KEEP THIS BETWEEN US, OKAY.....
OUR TEAM'S SUPERVISOR WASN' ALWAYS LIKE THAT, APPARENTLY.
HUH?! NO WAY!!
WHAT? WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
FUJI-SENSEI ALSO USED TO BE PRETTY FAMOUS FOR BEING A HYPER-SPARTAN DEMON COACH ...
HU~~~~H?! THAT CHIN?!
THOUGH HE DOESN' LOOK IT AT ALL.....
OH YEAH... I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY EVER SEEN HIM GET MAD.
WHEN I TOLD 'IM I'D BOUGHT HIS BOOK BUT DIDN'T READ MUCH OF IT HE JUST LAUGHED, TOO...
HUH? SUMMER-KUN, YOU DIDN'T READ IT?
Yeah. I got bored by the time I finished the preface.
SFX PIIIH BIH
DATE!
ANRI'S RING!

DATE
SFX: BASHI
SFX: WAAAA
YAMAGAKU'S SPREAD OUT DEEP WITHIN THE ZONE, FORTIFYING THE INSIDE!
OKAY, NOW ANRI'S ON THE OFFENSIVE!
THEY'VE SETUP A DEFENSE THAT MAKES GOOD USE OF THEIR HEIGHT!!
THA'S A GOOD DEFENSE. THEY CAN'T THROW IT ANYWHERE 'CAUSE 'A THAT.
W... WOAH, IT'S A BATTLE OVER POSITIONS!
SFX: DADA GUH
NNOH!
Hey!
DATE!

SLOWLY!
OKAY, NOW I CAN TAKE MY TIME AND GET THIS POINT.....
SU...
HM?

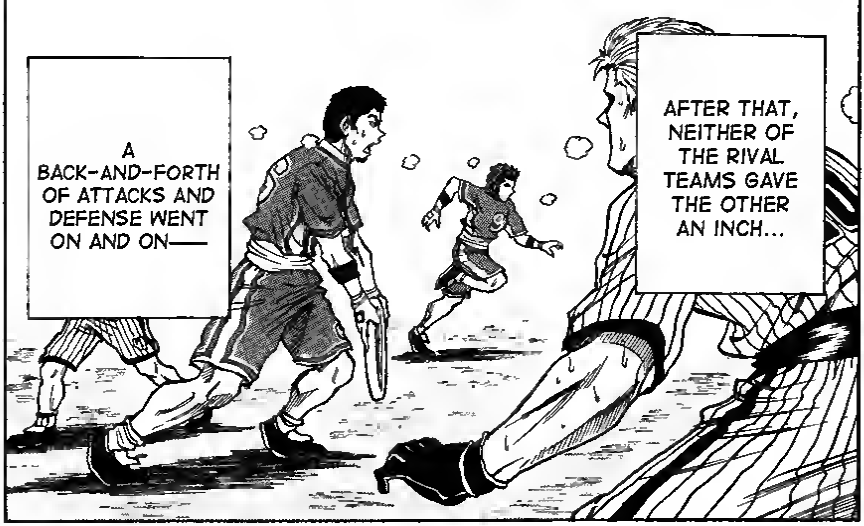
HUH?!
!!

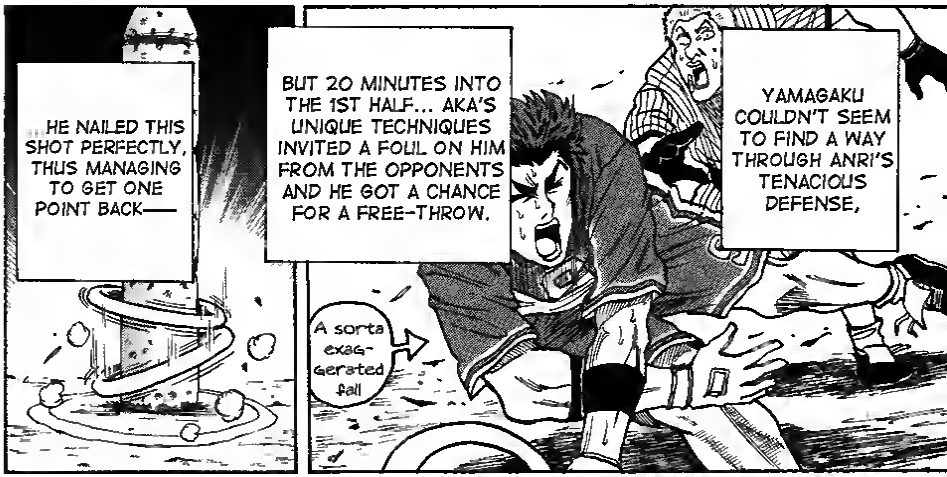
He really did?!
HE SHOT IT?!
OUTSIDE THE AREA!!
HE THREW IT!!

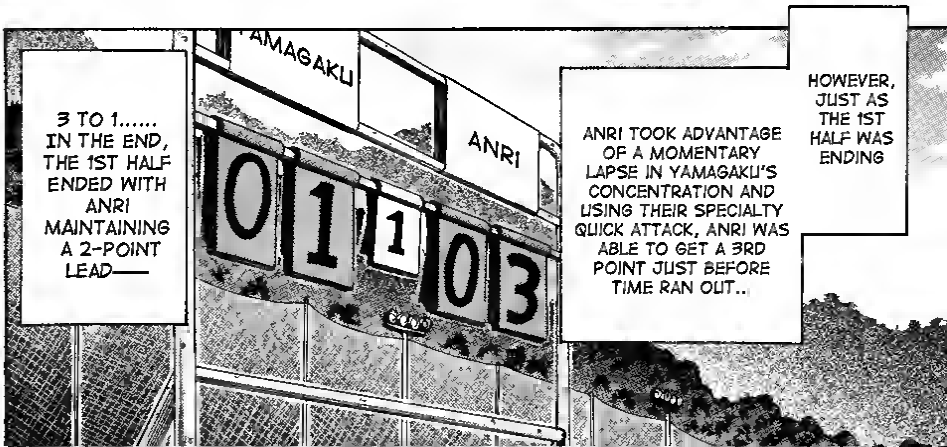

SFX. BASU

*A SHOT MADE OUTSIDE THE GOAL AREA. AS A BONUS, THE PLAYER IS GIVEN 1 FREE-THROW.

IT WAS JUST A FLUKE!
SHIT... I FORGOT... THAT DISTANCE IS STILL WITHIN DATE'S SHOOTING RANGE.....
HE WON'T GET A 2ND ONE.
HE'S THE TYPE TO GET PRETTY WORKED UP ...
HU .....
GUESS HE HAS MADE UP FOR THAT HALF-HEARTED PLAY FROM BEFORE, EH?!
OR MAYBE YOU COULD SAY HE JUST HATES LOSING...
SFX: PIH
Bonus shot!
——JUST AS HE THOUGH .....
SHU
SFX. KAH
DATE MISSED THE EASY FREE-THROW .....
YOU IDIOOOOT !!
AND SO THE SUPERVISOR YELLED AT HIM AGAIN...


A BACK-AND-FORTH OF ATTACKS AND DEFENSE WENT ON AND ON——
AFTER THAT, NEITHER OF THE RIVAL TEAMS GAVE THE OTHER AN INCH...


...HE NAILED THIS SHOT PERFECTLY, THUS MANAGING TO GET ONE POINT BACK——
BUT 20 MINUTES INTO THE 1ST HALF... AKA'S UNIQUE TECHNIQUES INVITED A FOUL ON HIM FROM THE OPPONENTS AND HE GOT A CHANCE FOR A FREE-THROW.
YAMAGAKU COULDN'T SEEM TO FIND A WAY THROUGH ANRI'S TENACIOUS DEFENSE,
A sorta exaggerated fall

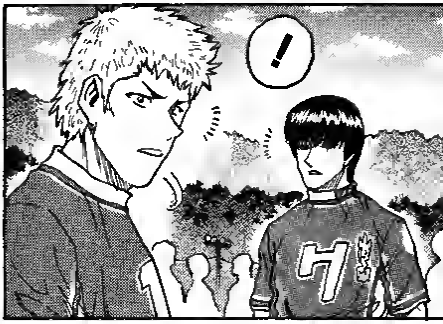

3 TO 1..... IN THE END, THE 1ST HALF ENDED WITH ANRI MAINTAINING A 2-POINT LEAD——
YAMAGAKU
ANRI
0 1 1 0 3
ANRI TOOK ADVANTAGE OF A MOMENTARY LAPSE IN YAMAGAKU'S CONCENTRATION AND USING THEIR SPECIALTY QUICK ATTACK, ANRI WAS ABLE TO GET A 3RD POINT JUST BEFORE TIME RAN OUT..
HOWEVER, JUST AS THE 1ST HALF WAS ENDING

HEY, GET ME A DRINK.
AND A LEMON.
RAISE THE GEAR A LITTLE BIT! YOUR GEAR!! I mean is your engine even on?
YOU'RE FRIGGIN' LOSING, AIN'CHA?! ARE YOU EVEN BEING SERIOUS ABOUT THIS?!
WE REALLY DIDN'T NEED THAT LAST POINT...
DAMMIIIT!
GOOD JOB, GUYS!
HOLD IT, AKA-CHIN!!
SHEDDEP! ALTERNATES SHOULD BE QUIET AND WATCH!!
I'M REALLY ANNOYED RIGHT NOW! IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP I'M REALLY GONNA BEAT THE SHIT OUTTA YOU, ASSHOLE!
SWITCH WITH ME ALREADY!! HURRY AND PASS THE BATON!!
ARE YOU LISTENING, DAMMIT?! AKA-CHIN, HEY!!
THOUGH I DO HOPE HE DOESN'T SNAP IN THE 2ND HALF
O...AKA SURE IS TENSE..... WELL, I GUESS WITH HIM BEING MARKED SO CLOSELY THE WHOLE TIME THE STRESS IS BUILDING UP...
Ooh, now it's on, jackass!
What're you gonna do, bastard?!
What're you doin', dammit!
HAA
HAA
HUU UUU UUU
Y... YEAH, THANKS!
ISSU, KURI-SAN

IN THE SHORT 30 MINUTES OF THE 1ST HALF.....
THE STAMINA-MONSTER KURITA-SAN IS THIS TIRED.....

YUMIBA-KUN... SAORI-KUN...
.....

SO YOU CAN JOIN IN ANY ANY TIME IN THE 2ND HALF...!
PLEASE BE WARMED-UP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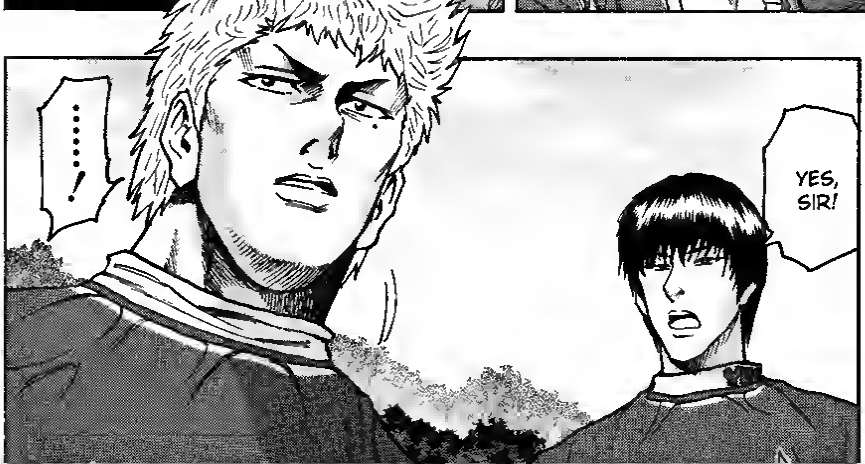

.....!
YES, SIR!

GETTING TO THE TOP 4 LAST YEAR WAS NO FLUKE.
WELL..... THEY'RE STRONG.
YEAH ...
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS YEAR'S YAMAGAKU ...?
JUST BY HAVING HIM, YAMAGAKU'S A NATIONAL-LEVEL TEAM...
ESPECIALLY AKA, HE'S REALLY INCREDIBLE.
MM..... AKA IS CERTAINLY A GOOD PLAYER,
BUT HE'S GOT A LOT OF FLAWS...!
"PERSONALITY" WISE
BUT HE'S NOT A TEAM-PLAYER, HE'S GOT A SHORT TEMPER, AND HE ACTUALLY HASN'T GOT ALL THAT MUCH STAMINA
HM... YA THINK SO? HE HAS TECHNIQUE, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT...
THAT GUY AIN'T NOTHIN' BIG...
IN THE 2ND HALF, DRIVE THAT KEY-MAN OFF THE FIELD...!!
WITH THE PERSISTENT MARKING IN THE FIRST HALF, THE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE.

AS SOON AS THE 2ND HALF STARTED, ANRI COMMENCED
ダッシュ
THE 2ND HALF WILL NOW BEGIN!
IT'S ANRI'S RING!!
SFX PIIIII
HO!
WITH PRESSES AND FAST ATTACKS EVEN MORE FURIOUS THAN THE 1ST HALF...
AND CUT THROUGH IN ONE BUST.

THE FIRST HALF WAS A WARM-UP EXERCISE FOR US...
WE CAN RUN FOR A FULL 60 MINUTES.

DO THESE GUYS...
HAVE UNLIMITED STAMINA...?!

DON'T MAKE LIGHT OF US!

UWA
T
TO
WA
A
AH
MU?
SFX: BAH
SFX: PIPIH DODO
HUH?!
HEE EEEY !!
NUMBER 9, AKA, CHARGING!!
Where're you looking, re?!!
WHAT THE HELL?! I DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH HIM!!
HEY, AKA, YOU IDIOT, STOP!!
BUCH!
HUHU.... AWAY GAMES ARE TOUGH, AIN'T THEY...?
AKA-CHAN ...!

!!
SFX: GOH
!!
SFX: PIIIH
FOR UNSPORTS-MANLIKE CONDUCT,
AKA IS CHARGED WITH BEING PULLED FROM THE GAME!!
.....!
OUT OF THE GAAAAME !!
RED CARD!!
UWAAA! HE PUNCHED HIIIIM!!

THAT GODDAMN IDIOOOO-OOOT!!!
OKAY! IN A WAY, THAT WAS JUST ACCORDING TO PLAN...!
BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO ACTUALLY PUNCH HIM .....
Geh~~~~... Hey, I told you, didn' I?!
THAT GUY'S AN IDIOT!
.....
GEEZ ...
ALL RIGHT... WITH AKA OUT OF THE WAY, THIS GAME'S OURS.
GULP
YAMAGAKU HAS NO ONE ON AKA'S LEVEL TO SUBSTITUTE HIM WITH...!
POW
ARE YOU ALL WARMED UP?
SAORI-KUN?
YESSIR!

Shimabus' Rules of Ring!

Thought up all on my own....

~Really Broad~

Malicious Fouls

- While retaining the ring, if you are not actively trying to go on the offensive, performing actions that clearly delay the game, foul an opponent in too dangerous a way, or perform a foul that clearly prevents a point from being scored, then by the referee's discretion, that player can be shown a yellow card as a warning. (You aren't allowed to verbally abuse someone, either.)
- If a player that's been shown a yellow card performed another malicious foul, the referee will issue a 2nd yellow card. In other words, a red card. That player can be pulled from the game (Like in soccer). Once a player has been removed from the game they cannot stand on the court again. Also, as a penalty to that team, they will not be able to replenish with a replacement player for 5 minutes.
- If there is any vehemently unsportsmanlike conduct clear to anyone watching, then the referee can skip showing that player a yellow card and can immediately give them a red card, removing them from the game.

Free-Throws

- If there is a foul by the defense within the goal area, the offensive side is given one free-throw. In such a situation, the free-throw is thrown from the free-throw line and must be performed within 5 seconds of the referee blowing his whistle.

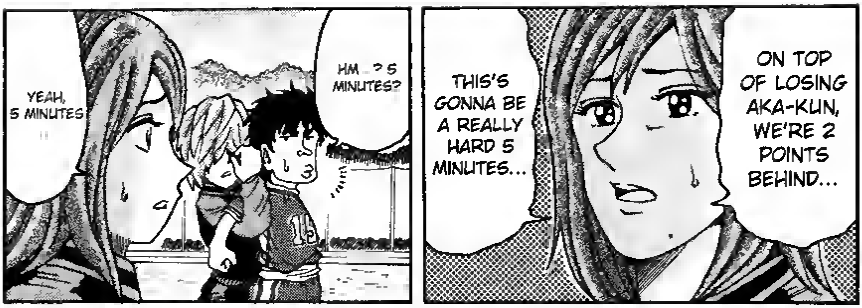
AKA'S BEEN IMMEDIATELY EJECTED FROM THE GAME!!
UWAAAA! DUE TO UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT...
THAT'S GONNA BE A MAJOR BLOW TO YAMAGAKUUUU !!
FUCK.
SFX: UWAAAAAA
That freakin' idioooooot !!
GEEZ ...

Ring21 : A Major Upset...!

Ring21 : A Major Upset....!

HAVE YOU FINISHED
WARMING UP?
PON
Finished a long time ago!
He doesn't mean you!!
.....
Hey!
GIN
SAORI-KUN,
YOU'RE THE SUBSTITUTE.
ISU!

OH NO~~~~
NO, YOU DEFINITELY STAND OUT PRETTY WELL.
IN A GETTING-IN-THE-WAY SORTA WAY
I'VE NEVER SEEN A MANGA WHERE A PROTAGONIST STOOD OUT SO POWERFULLY LITTLE, GODDAMMIT!!
HOW MANY WEEKS?! HOW MANY CHAPTERS TILL I GET TO DO SOMETHING, DAMMIT?!
WHYEEEE?! I'M RIGHT FRIGGIN' HEEEERE!!
HEY, C'MON!

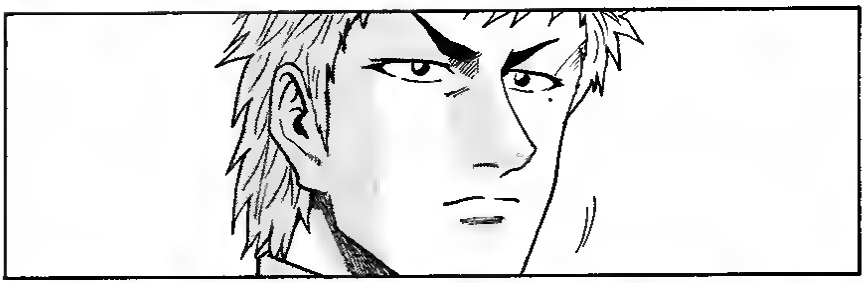

YEAH, 5 MINUTES
HM ? 5 MINUTES?
THIS'S GONNA BE A REALLY HARD 5 MINUTES...
ON TOP OF LOSING AKA-KUN, WE'RE 2 POINTS BEHIND...

SO 'CAUSE 'A THAT WE NEED TO FIGHT DOWN ONE MAN FER 5 MINUTES...
A TEAM THAT'S HAD A PLAYER EXPELLED FROM THE GAME AIN'T ALLOWED TO SUBSTITUTE AN ALTERNATE PLAYER IN FER 5 MINUTES...
WELL, IT MAKES SENSE TA HAVE THAT PENALTY, BUT STILL...

DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU, SENPAI.
!
HAA
HAA
JUST YOU SEE.
WE'LL WIN,

THEN YA WON'T LOSE.

YOUSUKE
CONCENTRATE AS MUCH AS YOU DID BACK THEN.
!



HUU

I'M REALLY SORRY. ..... SENSEI.....
AFTER THAT—
WITH YAMAGAKU DOWN ONE MAN TO ANRI, THEY COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH THE SPEED OF ANRI'S OFFENSE
AND ALLOWED A REGRETTABLE 4TH POINT
YAMAGAKU
ANRI
0 1 2
0 4
I GUESS WE COULDN'T ENDURE .....
THE DEMONIC 5 MINUTES...
SFX. PIPIH
COME IN!

YAMAGAKU'S SUBSTITUTE FOR AKA IS SAORI!!
OOOOOH! 5 MINUTE IS UUUP!!
KEEP ALL THE SAME POSITIONS.
1ST YEAR SAORI YOUSUKE!!
SFX WAAAAAAAA
IF HE'D COME TO OUR SCHOOL, HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO THE A TEAM.
SAORI, HUH ...?
HUHU, THAT'S GOOD.
IT'S SAORI FROM NORTH MIDDLE ...!!
SAORI ...!
GOOD LUCK!
YOUSUKE !!
DO YOUR BEST!!
SFX. AAAA
YOU CAN DO IT MAN, GOOOO!!
SAORI!!
IN A WAY YOU'RE GOING IN MY PLACE, SO YOU'VE GOTTA DO IT!!
GO GET 'EM, SAORI!!!
YOU-SUKE !!

HEY, CAPTAIN!
TAKE IT, SAORI!
OU ...
SFX: SIH
Okaaay, let's go!
SFX: PIIIII
!
SFX BASHI
THAT PASS WAS WEAK...!!
OKAY..... LET'S HEAR SOME VOICES!!

EVERYONE IN 3RD YEAR MAY BE TOUGH...
BUT STILL, SOMEWHERE DEEP DOWN THEY'RE RELYING ON YOU.
YOUR LEAVING IS BIG .....
.....!
FATIGUE IS ONE THING, BUT MORE THAN THAT ...
AKA-KUN...
IS SPIRITUAL SUPPORT TO OUR TEAM...
THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE A YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE PLAYER..
EVEN IF THE OPPONENTS ARE THE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM ANRI,
AND TRY TO GROW...
AKA-KUN .....
SO PLEASE BE AWARE OF THAT... THINK ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS
THAT'S HOW HEAVY THE LOSS OF YOU IS.....
THAT'S WHAT AN ACE IS...
SFX: JYA
THERE'S A 3-POINT DIFFERENCE
WITH 20 MINUTES LEFT...

I'LL DO IT ...!!
.....
SFX ZAH
DON'T GO EASY ON HIM JUST CAUSE HE'S A 1ST YEAR!!
CRUSH THEM IN ONE SHOT!!
HERE IT IS, THE PRESS!!
AND 3 OF THEM!!
SFX FUH
ALL RIGHT THEN!

SFX: ZUBAH
MU?!
SFX: SHU
AND HE PASSED IT!
OOOOH! HE MADE IT PAST THEM!!
THAT WAS FAST!!
BEFORE THE NEXT BLOCK COULD COME!!
WOAAAAH! THOSE ARE SOME SMOOTH MOVES!
THAT GUY ISN'T NERVOUS AT ALL!

SFX. BIH BASHI
SFX BASHI
AH!
NICE RETURN!
HOH.
SFX. GYURURU
PRETTY GOOD, 1ST YEAR!

WOO! THROUGH HIS LEEEGS!!
MAN, HE'S GOOD!!
OH!
THANKS!
SFX: ZAH
BASTARD ...
SFX: PIPIH
!!
SFX: GAH
UAH
SFX: WAAAAA
AAAAAH! A FOOOOOUL !!
HAYAMI WAS BLOCKING!!

THIS GUY .....
HAYA
.....
COMPLETING SUCH A CLEAN BETWEEN-THE-LEGS IN AN ACTUAL GAME...
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE I HAVE SEEN THA---T
SFX: SU...
A DIRECT RETURN?
!
He's coming up to the goal!!
Ooookay, now's our chance!
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE INTENDING TO DO, SAORI?
SFX: PIH

IT'S A HIGH ONE !!
HERE IT COMES !!
SFX: WAH
STICK BELOW THE GOAL!!
DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THE MARKERS!!
ANYHOW, DON'T LET THEM SHOOT!!
OU!
SFX: BIH
You're not getting a shot!!
ORAA!
SFX: BABAH
SFX: BYU
SAORI !!
UOH!
RAAAAH !!
UWAAAA! YAMAGAKU REALLY HAS THE HEIGHT ADVANTAGE!!

!?
SFX. BASHI
バシ
PRESSU-
UUUURE
!!
He's not
Marked!!

11
10
2
3
6

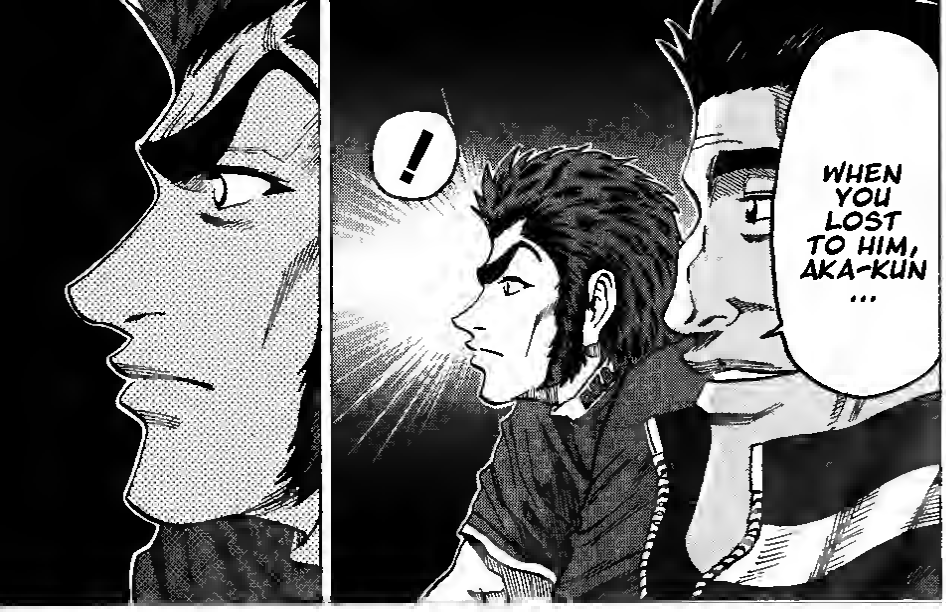
WATCH THE RING FOR THE REBOUND !!
HE SHOT IT!!
!!

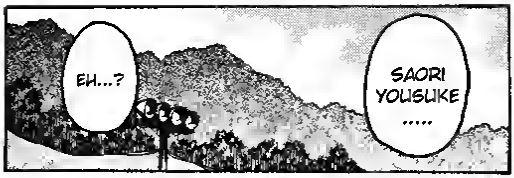
SFX. KAH

SFX ZAZAH
CHECK BEHIND THE GOAL!!
GO WHERE IT'S GONNA FALL!!

WHAA ...
!!
SFX: WAAAAA BAM BAM
OUTSIDE THE AREA!!
WHAAAAAAT?! HE SCOOO-OORED!!!
SAORI GOT A BONUS SHOOOOT !!!
SFX: AAA
HE WASN'T MARKED.
DAMN..... A 1ST YEAR SHOOTING FROM OUTSIDE...?
SAORI YOUSUKE .....
HUU
Kyaaaa! Yousukeeee !!
NICE, SAORI!!!!!!
ALL RIIIIIIGHT !!!
HE MAY BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN AKA...
WITH THE COOPERATION HE'S GOT,
SHU
HMPH WELL, I GUESS THAT'S SOMETHING

ナイス
SFX: GASU
SFX: UWAAAA
うわあああ
IT'S 4 TO 3!!
YEAAAH! NICE SHOT!!
HE GOT THE FREE-THROW, TOOOO!!!
IN ONE FELL SWOOP YOU SHRUNK THE SCORE DIFFERENCE TO 1 POINT——!!
WE CAN DO IT!! WE CAN CATCH UP!!
ISU!
HE'S GOT REAL SKILL, SENSEI...
.....
WITH THAT 2-POINT PLAY SAORI-KUN JUST DID
THEIR MORALE IS UP...
I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES AS WELL ...
...YES ...
OUR TEAM HAS BEEN REVIVED, HASN'T IT?


!
WHEN YOU LOST TO HIM, AKA-KUN ...


EH...?
SAORI YOSUKE .....

ARE THOSE EXCUSES ?
PLUS MY HAND WAS INJURED...
I WASN' RE LLY BEIN' SERIOUS THEN, YA KNOW...
Wait you were watching that, ensei ?

HE WAS REALLY THAT GOOD A PLAYER ....?

!

LET'S TURN THIS AROUND!
GUI
C'mon,

THE OTHER SIDE SHOULD'VE LOST SOME MOMENTUM WITH THAT LAST ONE!!
WE CAN WIN THIS!!
ALL RIIIGHT, LET'S GOOO!!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE !!
FOCUS TILL THE END!!

AND MAKE SURE YOU KEEP A STRICTER CHECK THAT 1ST YEAR!
LET'S JUST DO THIS LIKE WE HAVE SO FAR!
WE'RE STILL AHEAD!
OKAY, DON'T PANIC!
OKAAAY, LET'S GOOO!!
Keep your voices going!

WERE EVEN MORE INTENSE AND WERE PERFORMED ON AN EVEN HIGHER LEVEL THAN IN THE FIRST HALF———
THE OFFENSE AND DEFENSE THAT BOTH TEAMS OBSTINATELY STAKED THEIR PRIDE ON
EVERYONE THOUGHT THE GAME MIGHT END LIKE THIS AT 28 MINUTES INTO THE 2ND HALF.....
OF COURSE, *THAT MAN* WAS THE IMPETUS FOR IT ALL.
THE REMAINING GAME TIME *ALONE* QUIETLY DECREASED...
YAMAKAGU
ANRI
0 3 2 0 4
BOTH TEAMS MAINTAINED THEIR LEVELS OF CONCENTRATION AT THE MAX AND DIDN'T LET THEM DROP.
AND WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT, OOTAKE DROVE IT DIRECTLY INTO THE GOAL, MIRACULOUSLY TRYING ANRI'S SCORE TO A TIE AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR...
AND FROM THERE.....
FROM ONE OF SAORI'S SHARP ATTACKS, HE PASSED IT TO OOTAKE WHO WAS UNMARKED FOR AN INSTANT

SFX: PIPIIIII WAAAAAAAAA
4 TO 4!
EQUALIZER
THE MATCH ENDED—
SOMEHOW ...
YAMAGAKU WAS ABLE TO ACHIEVE THE MAJOR UPSET OF A DRAW AGAINST ONE OF THE BEST TEAMS IN THE PREFECTURE ANRI HIGH SCHOOL!!
HAA
HAAA
HAAA
HAAA
HAAA
11
3
HEEEY, YOUSUKEEE! YOU MAY HAVE MADE A COMEBACK BUT YOU STILL SUUUCK!!
YOU IDIOT, IT'S NOT AMAZING AT ALL! WE DIDN'T WIN!!
SFX: AA
ANRI, THE 2ND BEST TEAM IN THE PREFECTURE ...
WE DIDN'T LOSE TO ANRI!
A... ALL RIIIGHT!!
THIS IS REALLY AMAZING, AIN'T IT?
SHIT. EVEN AFTER A WINNING PERFORMANCE LIKE THAT...
Are you listenin', dammiiiit?!
IF YOU'RE GONNA GO IN IN MY PLACE THEN THAT LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE IS TOTALLY UNFORGIVABLE!!
11

I DIDN'T MAKE IT, EH...?
A~~~~~~A...
SFX: WAAAAAA ZAH
SO HE FINALLY SHOWS UP...?
..... GEEZ ...
YOU'RE LATE, IKKI!!
AH!!
HEY!
I GUESS YOU GUYS REALLY ARE NO GOOD WITHOUT ME, HUH?
HUH...? SAME SCORE?
AH, WE~~~LL...

Thought up all on my own....

Rules of Ring!

~Really Broad~

■ Shooting

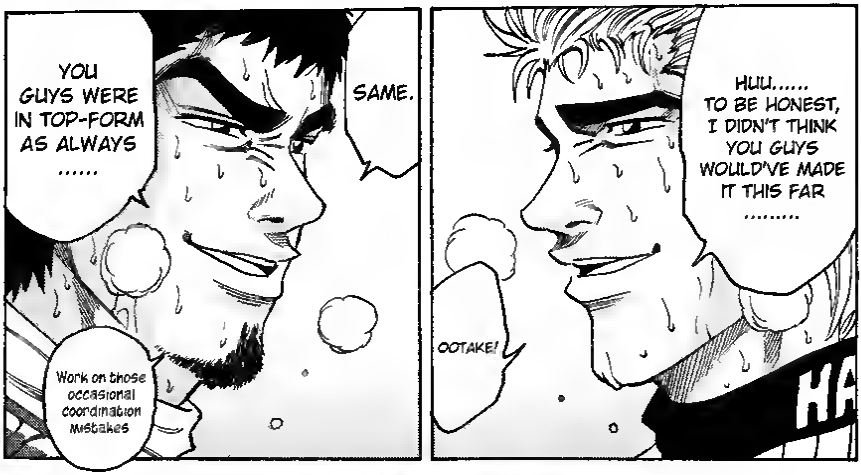
° An ordinary shoot simply scores one point, but if it's shot outside the goal line, it's called a "bonus shot". If you score one of these, you get a one-point free-throw (bonus). Also, originally I drew the story without that rule and instead had a "great shot" that was shot from your own territory to the center line. If you scored this, then you were given 3 free-throws as a bonus. And then there was a "victory shot" that was shot from within your own goal area. If by some amazing feat you were able to score this, you would be given 5 free-throws. Using those rules, Summer getting a "great shot" in the end would've been plenty, but to be honest this was an author's mistake (Gahaha!)... So, uh, please forgive that I ended up making this shot in the end of that match. (That can't be~~)

Well, yeah...

...So there are more detailed rules, but what I have here are really rough so... this has been the thought up all on my own rules! These really are all things I just made up, so I won't be accepting any complaints like "Isn't that part kinda weird?!" So, sorry. Nahaha...

End.

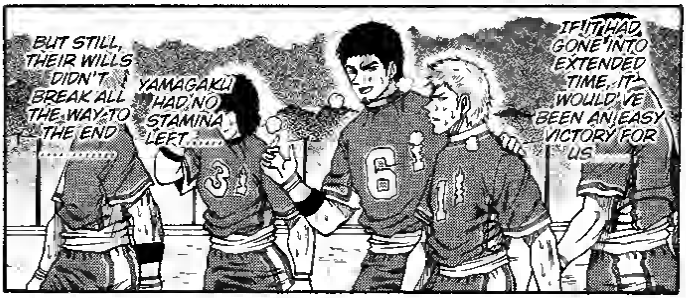
Ring22 : Reunion with Rivals...!


YOU GUYS WERE IN TOP-FORM AS ALWAYS .....
SAME.
Work on those occasional coordination mistakes
HUU..... TO BE HONEST, I DIDN'T THINK YOU GUYS WOULD'VE MADE IT THIS FAR .....
OOTAKE!

.....
2

SFX. AAAA

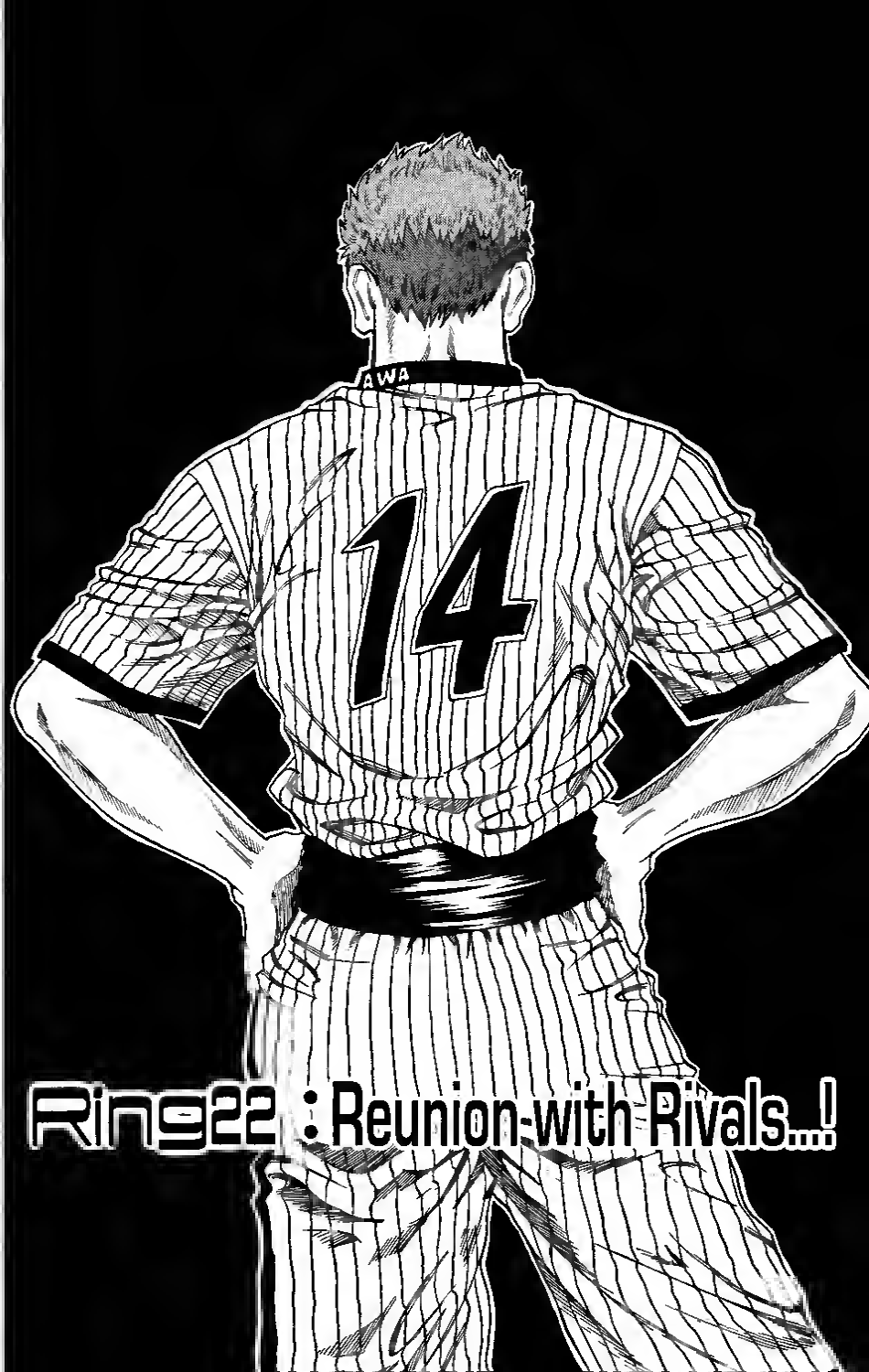
I GUESS IT HURT GETTING ONLY 4 POINTS IN THE END.....
THINGS WERE MOVING AT OUR PACE BY IT STAYING A LOW-SCORING GAME.....


BUT STILL, THEIR WILLS DIDN'T BREAK ALL THE WAY TO THE END.....
YAMAGAKU HAD NO STAMINA LEFT.....
IF IT HAD GONE INTO EXTENDED TIME, IT WOULD'VE BEEN AN EASY VICTORY FOR US.....

.....

HIS PRESENCE MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE.....
SAORI YOUSUKE
GLANCE

YOU'VE PICKED UP SOME GOOD TALENT...
FUJI-SENSEI...
!
WAS A MAJOR MISCAL-CULATION ON OUR PART...
HIM BEING EVEN MORE ACTIVE IN THE GAME THAN AKA...
SFX NYARI (GRIN)
I'LL WIN NEXT TIME...!
NUKU...
.....!
NOW THEN, AFTER A 10-MINUTE INTERMISSION
WE'LL MOVE RIGHT ALONG TO THE B-TEAM MATCH!

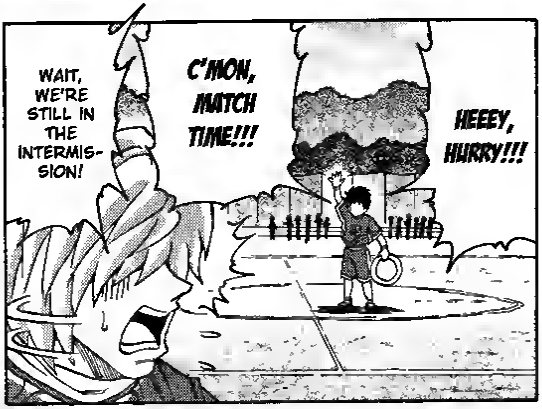


Ring22 : Reunion with Rivals...!

NOW IT'S MY TUUUUUURN !!!
ORUAAAAAAAA! THE TIME'S FINALLY COOOOOOOME !!

SFX: GYAAAA

..... SENSEI..
PLEASE LOWER YOUR HEAD TO DATE-KUN AND THE OTHER TEAM'S SUPERVISOR.
IF POSSIBLE I'D LIKE YOU TO APPEAR ON THE B-TEAM.....


WAIT, WE'RE STILL IN THE INTERMISSION!
C'MON, MATCH TIME!!!
HEEEY, HURRY!!!

AKA-KUN...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN HIBERNATING THIS WHOLE TIME!! AND I'M THE FRIGGIN' PROTAGONIST!!
I DON'T NEED NO STINKIN' INTERMISSIOOON!!
!
Okay, we get it.

SOMETIMES YOU BLOW YOUR LID.
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG...

IT'S FINE, AKA-KUN.
PICK YOUR HEAD UP.

THIS IS A PRACTICE MATCH,
ISO.
UNDER-STAND?
BUT IT CAN'T BE LIKE THAT IN AN OFFICIAL MATCH...
SO I DON'T MIND IF YOU'RE ON THE B-TEAM ...

.....

THE B-TEAM WILL PROBABLY HAVE A HARD TIME WITHOUT YOU.
ALSO YAMAGAKU DOESN'T HAVE MANY PLAYERS.
HEY, APOLIGIZE TO ME, TOO, AKA.

GIVE A REAL APOLOGY!!!
Lower your head!
Sorry.

Huh?
MANAG-ER!
!
HOW 'BOUT YOU FORGIVE HIM?
OH, ISN'T THAT ENOUGH, KAORI-KUN?
!
HM.. OH, YEAH, THAT'S HER.
THAT YOU WERE TALKIN' ABOUT AT THE YOUTH TRAINING CAMP.....
UH..... WAIT, WHAT DON'T TELL ME..... THE ANRI MANAGER
ひそひそ
This is Higemi-san
SFX: HISO HISO (WHISPERING)
T/N. HIGE = BEARD
A LOT CUTER THAN YAMAGAKU'S MANAGER, RIGHT?
What do ya think ...?
SFX: BIHYA HYA HYA HYA HYA HYA
WHA ...?
WHAT A WICKED JOKE, DATE -CHAN~~~~!!
MAAAN, YOU'RE KIDDING ME RI~~~GHT ?!!!
YOU'RE CHALLENGING OUR ASUKA-CHAN WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!!
10
ひゃ

AT THE YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE OKINAWA TRAINING CAMP
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU GUYS TALKIN' ABOUT?
WELL, WE WERE JUST—
TALKING ABOUT WHICH SCHOOL'S MANAGER IS THE CUTEST
YOU IDIOTS,
MY SCHOOL'S ASUKA-CHAN'S THE CUTEST BY FAR!
AAAAH... YOU'VE GOT A POINT...
YAMAGAKU'S GOT THOSE 3 CUTIES—!!
WHICH ONE'S ASUKA-CHAN AGAIN?
THAT ASUKA-CHAN...
The girl that shines the brightest.
!
HM?
ISN'T ANYTHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT
SHE'S NOTHIN' COMPARED TO OUR SCHOOL'S HIGEMI-SAN...

SHE'S PRE~~~~TTY.
YEAH... OUR 3RD YEAR HIGEMI-SENPAI
WHADDA YA MEAN CUTER THAN ASUKA-CHAN?
PRETTY? UH, DUDE.
ANRI HAS A FEMALE MANAGER?
THE BLOCKHEAD FROM ANRI...
HOH... YA DON'T SAY, DATE. ?
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN HIGEMI-SAN...? YOU HAVEN'T HAVE YA?!!!
WHO'S INTO UGLY PEOPLE, ASSHOLE?!
TO BE HONEST, THAT'S NOT ALL THAT CONVINCING FROM A GUY WHO'S "into ugly people".
Higemi!!!
Asuka!!!
IT'S HIGEMI-SAN!!
I TOLDJA IT'S ASUKA-CHAN!!
HEY, STOP IT YOU TWO!
NO, HIGEMI-SAN IS!!
ASUKA-CHAN IS 100% DEFINITELY CUTER, YOU MORON!
.....
WE'VE GOTTA STOP THEM TOGETHER!
CALL A COACH!
UWAAA! AKA AND DATE ARE FIGHT!!!!NG!!
OH? NO PROBLEM! I'LL TAKE YOU ON, BASTARD!! JUST TRY ME!!
WHAT A DUMB BASTARD YOU ARE! I'LL BEAT THE SHIT OUTTA YOU!!!
STOOO-OOP!!
SFX. GAH

ぷるぷる
.....
AND ALSO WE GOT THE ANSWER THAT I WON THIS MATCH, HUH?!
YOU ARE INTO UGGOS, JUST LIKE I THOUGHT!
NOW I KNOW FOR SURE...
SFX. PURU PURU (SHAKING)
WHAT'D YOU JUST SAY?
YOUR ASUKA-CHAN IS THE UGGO. DAMMIT!!!
WHADDA YOU MEAN BY THAT?! A... ARE YOU SAYING THAT HIGEMI-SAN IS U...U... UGLY?!!!
MUGYAAAAA! UNFORGIV-ABLLLE!!!
ER, WAIT, THE REASON THESE GUYS WERE FIGHTING WAS SOMETHING THAT STUPID...?
I'm kinda embarrassed now
SFX. WAAA
わあ
WAAAA DATE AND AKA STARTED FIGHTING AGAAAAAIN!
STOOOOP !!
SFX. AAAAAA
あ あ
I SAID SHE'S THE UGLY ONE. DUMBASS!!!
WHAT DID YOU SAY JUST NOW, BASTAAARD ?!!!
YOU SAID IT? Did you really say that? I'll friggin' kill you!!!
HEEEEY! AKA-CHIN, KNOCK IT OOOOOFF!!
WHY? DIDN'T HE GO TO APOLOGIZE?
SFX. WAAAA
ワアア
HUH... THEY'RE FIGHTING AGAIN?!
15
12

WH...
ASHUKA-SENPYAI?!
WHUHA?!
HUH...?
SOMEBODY CALLIN' ASUKA-CHAN UGLY, MOROOOON!
YOU BASTAARD, LIKE HELL I COULD JUST IGNORE
SFX: WAAAA
THAT BOMBSHELL STATEMENT SERIOUSLY CROSSES THE LIIIIIINE!!!
WHAT BALD PERFORMER SAID THAT, DAMMIIIIT ?!!!
SFX: GYAOH
HEY, HEY...
AH?
QUIT GETTIN' SO WORKED UP OVER LAME THINGS LIKE THAT.....
YAMAGAKU NUMBER 9-SANNNNN ...
I DUNNO YOUR NAME, BUT...

...HUH?
THAT YOU'RE FIGHTING ?
OR IS IT BECAUSE YA COULDN'T WIN AT RING...
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
14
14
WHETHER IT'S IN RING OR IN A FIGHT.
THOUGH, I'M PRETTY CONFIDENT I CAN BEAT YOU
IMAC
ANRI HIGH SCHOOL 1ST YEAR
IMAGAWA IKKI

BUEAH
WAS IT YOU, DAMMIIIIIIT ?!!!
ゴキャ
SFX: GOKYA
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, SUMMEEE-EEER?!!
UWAAA AAAA!!
OH?
IKKI!!

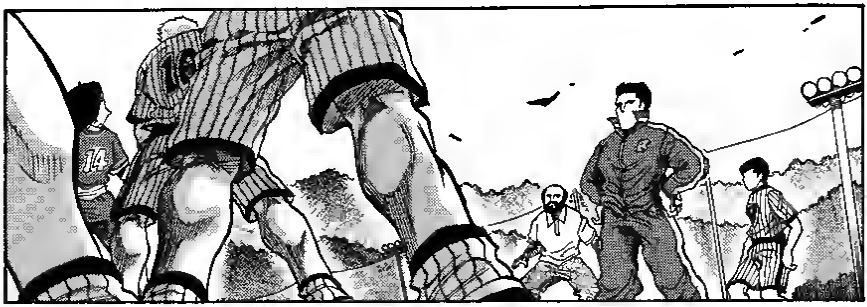
HM .....?
WH...
WHAT THE HELL~ ~~~?

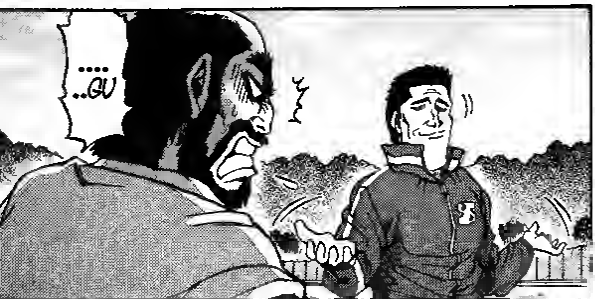
I... I SURE DIDN'T EXPECT ...
HUH?
WHAT'S WITH PUNCHING ME OUTTA THE BLUE LIKE THAT, BASTARD?
TO RUN INTO YOU AGAIN AT A PLACE LIKE THIS.
?
SHUT UP!!
YOOO-OOOU !!
UGO
SFX: GON
!
YOU SHOPLIFTING BASTARD...!!
SFX: GOGO
CUT IT OOOOOUT!!
WAAA! SUMMER'S FIGHTING NOW, TOOOOO!!
WHO IS THAT GUY...!?
HE DIDN'T FALL DOWN AFTER GETTING HIT BY ONE OF SUMMER'S PUCHES...!?
SFX: WAAAAAAAA
WH... WHAAT?!
I HAVE NO FUCKIN' CLUE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, GODDAMMIT!!!
IT'S BECAUSE 'A YOU THAT I'M A LAMB THAT WANDERS AROUND SLEEPLESS DAY AFTER DAY, YOU BASTAAAARD!!

SHOP-LIFTEEER!!
HM?
NO WAY .....!!
N...
SFX: WAAA AAA
わぁぁ...
HARD TO TELL WHAT'S GOING ON ANYMORE!!
あぁ...
UWAAA IT'S KINDA
あ
HURRY, STOP THEEEEEM!!
You bastard, you just kicked me!
WHO'RE YOU?!
WHERE'S ZUMMER?!
SFX: SUUUU
すぅ
SFX: AAAAA
アアアアア
SUPER-VISOR!
GEEZ ...

WOULD YOU QUIT IT?!!!!!
SFX GOR
SFX WAAAAA
DORYA AAAA
URAA AAAA
SFX DOOOOON
THEY'RE NOT STOPPING AT ALL
SFX. AAAAAA
SFX. ZAH
!

PLEASE STOP.
SFX PITA
ピタ

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..QU

PLEASE FORGIVE US!
PLEASE LET US DO THE MATCH!!
LOOK HOW SORRY WE ARE, SENSEI!!

C'MON
.....LET'S HEAD BACK.
YOU DON'T DESERVE TO HAVE A MATCH ANYMORE.

Nope ...
.....

I'M SO SORRY, DAIMONJI-SENSEI.
IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT YOU IDIOTS!!
AAAAAA
SENSEI!!
FUJI-SENSEI ...

SFX: GAN

HAVING SOME FIGHTING SPIRIT IS A GOOD THING, ISN'T IT...?
I THINK IT'S ACTUALLY PROMISING
...WELL..... BUT THE STUDENTS ARE IN SUCH A STATE...
OR MIGHT IT BE.....

WE COULD HAVE THE MATCH ...
I DON'T REALLY MIND.

WHUH?
SFX: PIKU
NO, COULDN'T BE THAT
YOU'RE SCARED OF LOSING... OR ANYTHING?
SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY, FUJI-SENSEI?
WE~~~LL, I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT YAMAGAKU DOESN'T HAVE CONFIDENCE IN ITS B TEAM, THO~~~UGH...
BUT FOR US, A B TEAM MATCH IS PRETTY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT PREDICTS WHAT'LL HAPPEN NEXT YEAR OR THE YEAR AFTER, YA SEE~~~
.....
S SUPERVISOR
HE'S DEFINITELY FRUSTRATED ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO STOP THAT COMMOTION EARLIER...
He's trying to give some Fuji-sensei some hell with a match
SFX: NYA NYA (SMIRKING)
IF
WE LOSE, I DON'T MIND HAVING ALL OF OUR TEAM MEMBERS HAVING TO CUT THEIR HEADS TO BUZZ CUTS.....
YES!
WE HAVE PLENTY OF GOOD PLAYERS ON OUR B TEAM AS WELL.....
I NEVER SAID WE'RE NOT CONFIDENT.
HOH..... SO YOU DO HAVE CONFIDENCE, THEN...?
That's
how much confidence we have...!!

HU~~~H?!
HOLD ON, SENSEIIII?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
ARE YOU SERIOUS, SUPERVISOR?!!
SO DO WE!
...
YOUR DISLIKE OF LOSING IS THE SAME AS IN THE OLD DAYS...
HUHU... YOU REALLY ARE A RISK-TAKER, FUJI TAKASHI...!
NO WAY?!!
THAT GOES FOR THE SUPERVISORS, THE COACHES, AND THE MANAGERS, TOO!!
ISN'T THAT A LITTLE...
SFX: BISHIH
We're having a B Team match!!
OOOOOKAY, THEN IT'S SETTLED!!
And everyone on the losing team gets buzz cuts!!!
YOU'RE KIDDIIING!!
HM... IS THAT SO...?
WELL, ABOUT THE MANAGERS, I FEEL A LITTLE
YOU FEEL BAD FOR THEM, HUH?

AKA-CHIIIN !!
BAKI
BAKI
NOBODY ASKED YOU, UGGO!!
I DON'T REALLY MIND.
HM?
I REMEMBER NOW...
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT CHASED AFTER ME BACK THEN.
YOU..... I REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE
THE SLOW-FOOTED GUY, RIGHT...?!
HM?
IT'S TOO BAD EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE GOT ALL THAT NICE DYE IN YOUR HAIR...

GAH
!
AFTER TODAY, IT'S GONNA BE A CREW CUT!

YOU MEAN YOURS IS?
.....

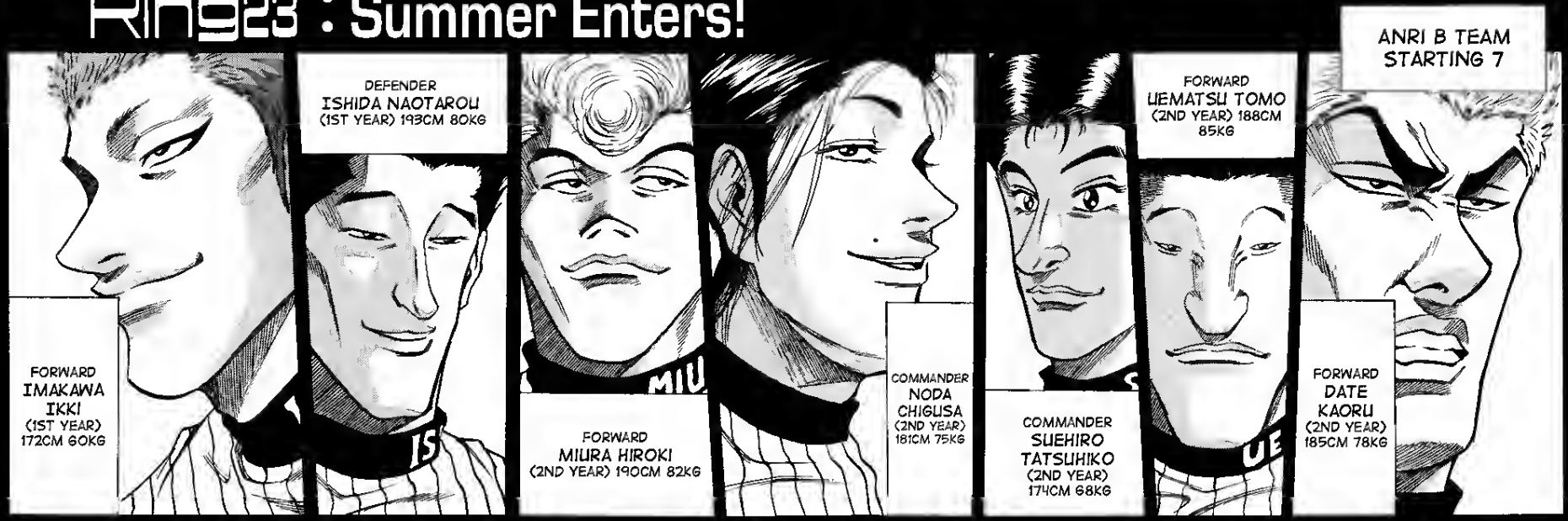
SORRY... FOR SOME REASON I CAN'T BACK DOWN AGAINST THAT GUY.....
SENSEI... ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THIS?
And uh, it's pretty clear that our B Team is at a disadvantage, by the way...

IKKI.....

.....
YOURS IS.
YOURS IS
YOURS ...
YOURS ...

Ring23 : Summer Enters!

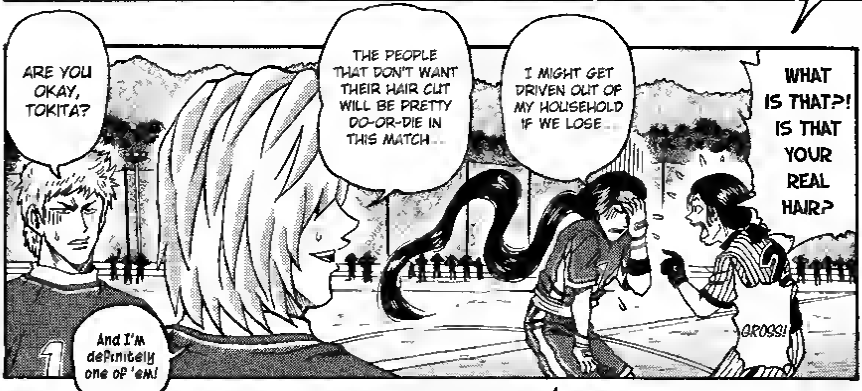
Ring23 : Summer Enters!



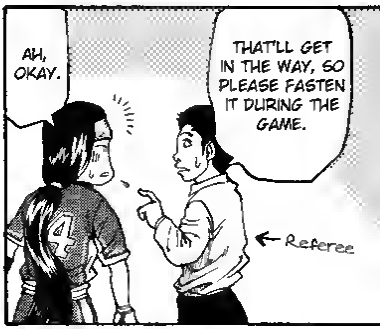
YAMAGAWA ACADEMY RESERVE——
HANAGATA NATSU
(1ST YEAR) 173CM 65KG
SFX DON
WHY DO I GOTTA START ON THE BE~~~NCH?! I'M GONNA GO OFF THE RAILS HERE!!
GODDAMMIT!!
DUDE— SO EVEN WHEN YOU WERE ACTING LIKE SUCH A BIG-SHOT, YOU'RE NOT EVEN A STARTING PLAYER...?
WELL YOU, SEE, HANAGATA-KUN,
WHAT THE HELL DO YA MEAN RESERVE, GODDAMMIIIIIT !!
HUH? WHA- HOLD IIIIT!!
JUST WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?!!
SFX. BISHIH
.....
SO MAKE SURE YOU WORK YOURSELF UP A SWEAT SO YOU'RE READY TO GO ANY TIME.
TIMES FOR YOU TO SHINE WILL COME FREQUENTLY, HANAGATA-KUN.
THOSE ON THE BENCH MAY BE EVEN MORE VITAL THAN THE STARTING PLAYERS ..
SO DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION, THERE MIGHT BE SOME VERY INTENSE SWITCHING OF PLAYERS...
RING IS A SPORT WHERE PLAYERS CAN BE SUBSTITUTED MANY TIMES.

HEY, DATE,
WHY'RE YOU PLAYING AGAIN WHEN YOU WERE ALREADY ON THE A TEAM?
SWAP WITH ME, SAORI!!
OOOOOKAY! SWEAT, CHECK!
THE MATCH HASN'T EVEN STARTED YET, HANAGATA-KUN !!
UH, AREN'T YOU SORTA SWEATING WAY TOO MUCH?!!
SHUT UUUP! YOU WERE IN THE LAST GAME, TOO, WEREN'T YOU?
NOW WE'RE EVEN.
SFX BOTA BOTA
DON'T GET CONCEITED, MORON!
I JUST WANNA BEAT THE GUY THAT INSULTED HIGEMI-SAN TO A PULP MYSELF...!
SO ANRI CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE THIS MATCH EITHER, HUH?
HAHAH. DES-PERATE, AREN'T YOU?
HM?
I'D SERIOUSLY PREFER WE DIDN'T HAVE THAT PART...
WELL, NOT THAT I'M GOING LOSE.
I THINK WITH LONG HAIR OF THAT LENGTH IT WON'T BE THAT SERIOUS.
ANYHOW, DOES THE TEAM THAT LOSES REALLY HAVE TO GET BUZZ-CUTS?
SURE. I'LL GET YOU KICKED OUT OF THE GAME AGAIN
JUST TRY, UGGO-FETISH.
OH?
AH,?
ALSO, I DON'T HAVE AN UGGO-FETISH.

FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS
I DON'T CUT MY HAIR, SO I'M PRETTY UNEASY...
LOOOOONG!!!


ARE YOU OKAY, TOKITA?
THE PEOPLE THAT DON'T WANT THEIR HAIR CUT WILL BE PRETTY DO-OR-DIE IN THIS MATCH...
I MIGHT GET DRIVEN OUT OF MY HOUSEHOLD IF WE LOSE...
WHAT IS THAT?! IS THAT YOUR REAL HAIR?
And I'm definitely one of 'em!
GROSS!

IT'S ANRI'S RING!!
THE GAME NOW BEGINS!


AH, OKAY.
THAT'LL GET IN THE WAY, SO PLEASE FASTEN IT DURING THE GAME.
Referee

Okey, get psyched, everybodyyy!!
OOOOH, IT'S STARTING !!
THROW-OFF!!!
Let's get our voices going!!
LET'S GET FIRED UP AND CRUSH THESE GUYS!!
THOUGH I REALLY DON'T WANT A BUZZ CUT!!!
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON US, YOU GUYS!!
YEAAAAH!!!
SFX: PIIIIII BIH

RIGHT SENSEI!!
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE!
BUT BOTH OF YOU ALREADY HAVE BUZZ CUTS, TOO, SO WHY DOES IT MATTER TO YOU?
HM?

Move, move, Anri!! Push, push, Anri!!!
GO! GO! Let's go! Let's go Anri!!
SFX: UOH
SFX: OOH

.....
WIN NOW MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, DAMMIT!!
AKAA, IF YOU GUYS LOSE GETTING A BUZZ CUT'S NOT GONNA BE YOUR ONLY PUNISHMENT!!

COACH .....?
CLUB TEAM .....

AROUND THE TIME I WAS A CLUB TEAM COACH...
NOW THAT TAKES ME BACK...
HM~~~~~ WELL THERE WAS A TIME WHEN EVEN I HAD A BUZZ CUT...

YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT?!!
WELL, IF THE SITUATION CALLS FOR IT, I DON'T MIND GETTING A BUZZ CUT EITHER...
TH..... THAT'S REALLY SCARY~~~!
TH... THAT'S THE ERA WHEN SENSEI WAS A DEMON COACH...!!

SFX. ZUBAH

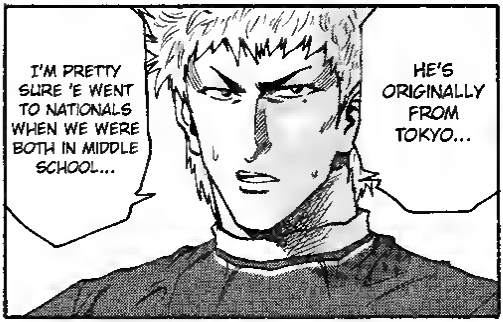
VRAA!!!

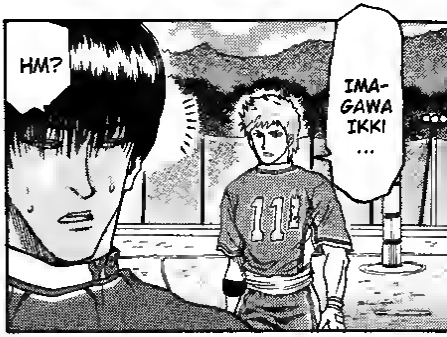
UOH!
SFX BAH
That Ikki guy !!
UWAA! HE'S FAST!!
DAMMI...
!!
SHU
Uo!!
KIYO-KIYOO !!
SFX BASHI
Niice!

RAAA !!!
GOA
SFX DOGO
SFX ZA
KABAM!
—GH

WHAT A FORCEFUL BASTARD.
HE TOTALLY BLEW 190CM KIYOKIYO AWAY...
HE FORCED IT IN DIRECTLY !!
JUST LIKE THAT, THEY TAKE THE FIRST POIIIINT!!
UWAAA! THAT WAS INTENSE !!!!
SFX: WAAAAAA
AT LEAST IN OFFENSE, OUR B TEAM SURPASSES OUR A TEAM...!!
We'll give it all we've got to score some points and win with a big lead!
SFX: AAAAAAAAA
OUR VICTORY IS SOLID, BUT WE WON'T WIN IT A NORMAL WAY...
HUHU. FOR THIS MATCH...
IT'S NOT JUST HEIGHT AND POWER
THE SOURCE OF THAT ATTACK JUST NOW WAS NUMBER 14
185cm
193cm
188cm
190cm
This time it's Anri that's got height and power!!!
MAN, THEY'RE HUGE!!

ANRI SERIOUSLY HAS A 1ST YEAR LIKE THAT.....?
THAT LAST PASS WAS CUT SO SHARP I COULDN'T MOVE ONE STEP TOWARDS IT...


I'M PRETTY SURE 'E WENT TO NATIONALS WHEN WE WERE BOTH IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
HE'S ORIGINALLY FROM TOKYO...


HM?
IMA-GAWA IKKI ...

BUT...
BACK THEN, I THOUGHT HE STILL SEEMED PRETTY AWKWARD ...
WAS HE GOOD?
BUT?

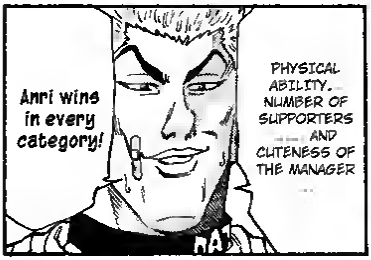
FOR SOMEBODY THAT WENT TO NATIONALS, I SURE HAVEN'T HEARD MUCH ABOUT HIM...
IMAGAWA IKKI?
THA'S CAUSE HE CAUSED ALL KINDS 'A PROBLEMS. HE BARELY APPEARED IN ANY OFFICIAL MATCHES
I ONLY SAW HIM PLAY IN ONE PRACTICE MATCH...

INSANELY FAST.....
HE WAS ...

PLAY WILL NOW RESUME !!
YAMA-GAKU'S RING!!
SFX: PIIII
Ah!
RAA!!
SFX: BASHI
SFX: WAH
AN INTER-CEPTION!!
Uoh!
SFX: ZUDON!!
UWAA! WHAT A FAST QUICK ATTACK !!!
HE'S A YELLOW BOLT OF LIGHTENING !!
IKKI'S RUNNING AHEAD OF EVERYBODY !!!
YOU IDIOT! WHAT'RE YA DOIN', TOKI-CHAN ?!!

They're so good!!!
BOOOOM! THEY SCOOORED! 2ND POINT!!!
I KNEW IT, THE ANRI B TEAM IS OVERWHELMING THEEEEM!!

THOUGH WERE PLANNING ON HAVING HIM ON THE A TEAM.
SERI-OUSLY
NOBODY CAN KEEP UP WITH THAT GUY'S SPEED.


Anri wins in every category!
PHYSICAL ABILITY, NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS AND CUTENESS OF THE MANAGER

Can you hear the countdown to your head being buzzed, Aka...?
Kakka khah!
THAT 1ST YEAR'S GOTTEN DAMN COCKY...

HM?

BISH!
OW!
HEEEEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' OUT THERE, YAMAGAKU~~~ ?!!!

AUA AAA AAH !!
AH!
HEY, REF, DID YOU SEE THAT JUST NOW?
AH!
YOU GUYS AIN'T GOT ENOUGH SPIRIT, DAMMIT!
THE YAMAGAKU CHEERING SQUAD!!!
THIS IS A RING TEAM MATCH, I TOLDJA!
WE'VE COME A LONG WAYS TO CHEER FOR YA!!
SFX: DOOOON!
I CAME, TOO~~~~ ♡♡♡
AKA-KU~~~N! ♡
GEORGE !!
GEORGE ...

YOU'RE PART 'A THE TRACK-AND-FIELD TEAM, YOU'VE GOT NOTHIN' TA DO WITH THIS, GODDAMMIT!
WHY THE HELL'RE YOU HERE?!
.....?
GO HOME!
NOBU-MI!!!!! !!!
UGYA~ ~~~ ~~~
SFX: UHUHUHUHU
GET GOING RIGHT NOW, NOBUMI!!!! !!
AW MAN, SHE'S SUPER CUTE!!
YOU'RE CRAZY DISTRACT-ING!!!
WIN THIS ONE FOR NOBUMI~ ~~♡
GOOD LU~~~CK, AKA-KU~~~~N! ♡

HUH? THIS GUY...
I THINK I'M IN LOVE...
AW MAN
HAHA
HE REALLY IS A PERVERT
AW, GEEZ, THAT GIRL.....
AW, MAN
ドキ
ドキ
AW MAN. NOW I WORKED UP A WEIRD SWEAT.
WHAT'S GOING ON, DATE?
HM?
YAMAGAKU'S RING!
AND BEGIN!
SFX BIIII
AHRIGHT!!
LET'S KEEP THIS UP AND TRAMPLE THEM!!
YAMA-GAKU'S B TEAM ISN'T ANYTHING SPECIAL.
UWA~~~ I CAN TOTALLY SEE THAT GIRL'S PANTIES!
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE US!
HUH? YOU'RE HERE, TOO, ASUKA?
SPIRIT! LET'S SEE SOME SPIRIT!!!
ORAAA! DON'T LET 'EM BEAT YOU, AKAAA!!
OF COURSE I AM! I'M THE MANAGER!
IT'S GEORGE
HEY, IT'S BEEN A WHILE, JIIKO~~~

10
SFX. ZUBAH
UA
HERE HE COOOOOMES!! IT'S SAORI!!!
DON'T SPACE OUT, DATEE!!
S-
SO HIIIIIGH !!
19
10
11
HORAA!

NICE PAAAAASS !!
SFX: BASHI
SFX: GAH
IT'S AKAAAAA !!
HE SCOOOORED !!
GYAAAAA♡
AALL RIIIIIGHT !!!
SFX WAAAAA
THE 1ST-2ND YEAR ACES WORKING TOGETHER!!
YAMAGAKU CAN'T LOOOSE!!!

HE SCORED RIGHT BAAAACK !!
UWAAA! THERE'S IKKI AGAAAAAIN!!
SO WHAAAT ?!!!
H... HE'S TOO FAST!!
SFX: GASU DODO
That 1st year just can't be stopped!!

SFX: BASHI
ARE THEY UNSTOPPABLE, TOO?!
OOOOOH! THIS TIME IT'S GOING FROM AKA TO SAORI!!
QUIT WRIGGLING AROUND !!!
SO NAIVE !

WHUH?
HYUU! ♪
SFX: BASHI
SFX: BIH
!!
HE'S IN MIDDLE RANGE, HE CAN SHOOT!!
MISUGI !!
SUPERB!
LOOK OUT FOR THE REBOUND!!
He launched iiiiit!!
ANRI'S GOT THE CLEAR HEIGHT ADVANTAGE !!
AYE!
SFX: BISHI

SFX BASH
!!
SFX WAAAAAAAA
THE TEAMS ARE MATCHING EACH OTHER TIT FOR TAT!!!
MISUGI !!
ALL RIIIIGHT !!
WAAAAA! IT WENT IIIIIN!!!
YAMAGAKU
ANRI
0 2 1 0 3
BECAUSE WE HAVE THE OUT-AND-OUT ACE...!
BUT FOR THIS MATCH, AN UNGUARDED SHOOTING MATCH IS JUST WHAT WE WANT...!
LOOKS LIKE OUR B TEAM'S WEAKNESS IS DEFENSE .....
MUU.... THOUGHT SO

YOU.....
HAH HAA AAA !!!
OUTTA MY WAY, SLOW-POKES !!!
SFX: GAH
Wait dammmit!
UGA!
SFX PIIIII
...KU...
AAAAAAH! A FOUL ON AKA!!
SFX: AAAAA
AAAA! A YELLOW CAAAAARD!!
A YELLOW CARD AT THIS POINT OF THE FIRST HALF ON AKA IS GONNA BE REALLY TOUGH ON
AH...
A CARD GIVEN AS A PENALTY TO A PLAYER THAT HAS PERFORMED A CLEARLY MALEVOLENT FOUL OR WASTE OF TIME. RECEIVING 2 OF THESE RESULTS IN A REMOVAL FROM THE GAME
SFX: SU
—GH

He's a genius ...!
IKKI'S SPEED IS A NATURAL GIFT.
THIS BALDY ....
.....
.....WELL... I'M NOT GONNA STOP UNLESS YOU DO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
THOUGH THAT CAN ACTUALLY TURN OUT TO BE AN ACHILLES HEEL... IF WE CAN JUST STOP HIM...
HM..... THE STARTING POINT OF MOST OF ANRI'S ATTACKS ARE HIM.....
ARE YOU ALL WARMED UP?
YEAH, YOU'RE IN...!
WHAT, SUPER-VISOR?!
MU?!
HANAGATA-KUN.
WHAT IS IT?!
AM I IN?!

'A COURSE !!

Shimabu's Story

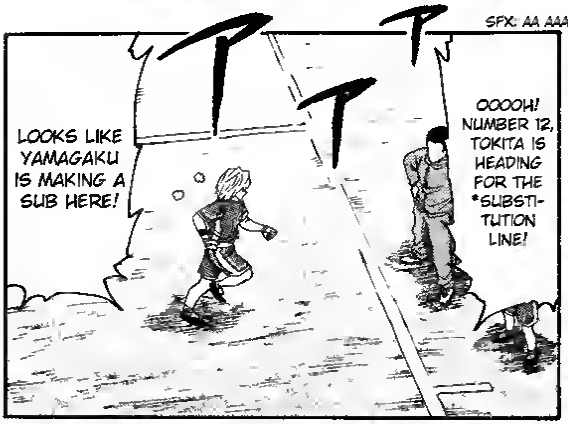
(Until I made Ring (10))

Okay, stand! Bow!! Be seated!! Okay, so now I think I'd like to continue my "Until I made Ring." Everyone, open your non-textbooks "Ring" Volume 2 and open up to "Shimabu's story." Let's review what we read last time! Or rather, I don't remember myself at all, so I'll be doing a review (Hehe)!! That actually reminds me of something an old school teacher of mine once said, "It's okay to forget formulas..." Er, hu~~~h?! It's okay to forget them~~~~?! is what I thought at the time. I'm pretty sure this was a math teacher or something. "It's okay as long as you remember them again", he said afterwards, which I oddly can't help but agree with, seeing as I was a self-proclaimed Mister Last-Minute-Crammer at the time. Yes. My forgetfulness is because of that teacher (Yeah, right!).

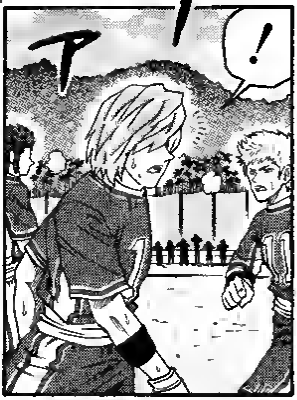
Now then, we got pretty off track just there, but on to "Until I Made Ring." Last time, I think I was up to a part where I had come up with everything up to the ring-toss on a field as a competitive sport stuff. I had reached the level where what was in my mind and on the page I was somehow able to come up with the general idea of what Ring was. But it was a hard stage to describe because I still had all the details to hammer out... If I were to put my anticipation and anxiety on a scale, my anticipation would be at 100! (What? 100?!!) Yeah~... See, even if you think you can "do anything", unless you get your ass in gear and do it, you can't do anything... (So seriously, 100? What?!!) Hehe.

First, I felt that before I thought up the rules, I basically had to actually go try it out. Even if I could imagine the movements in my mind, the theme of RING was gonna be "a sport you could actually play"... So rather than start grumbling, I had to go and actually experience it myself... But look now, this should be a given, but RING isn't a sport that actually exists in the world so of course the RING you use in Ring also doesn't actually exist. So, I had my first hurdle to overcome! First I needed to find that "Ring"!!

Continued on Page 235~



SFX: AA AAA



*THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT FOR PLAYERS SUBBING IN AND OUT BY THE WAY, THIS DOESN'T REQUIRE THE REFEREE'S PERMISSION.

THOUGH HE MUST NOT HAVE GOOD PERIPHERAL VISION WITH BANGS LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
NUMBER 12'S MOVES HAVE DEFINITELY BEEN SOLID!
WHO'S THE SUB?!

Ring24 :

Victory Shot!

Ring24 : Victory Shot!

HEY !!!
SFX: BAN
!

SFX: GUIH
C'MERE, IDIOT!
QUE ?!
.....
YOU GUYS ...
NOW. YOUR DEFEAT IS CERTAIN!
I really feel sad for ya .....

NOW THEN
.....

I GUESS THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL A PERSON WITH A SCREW LOOSE.
MM...
WHAH ?!
WHAT'D SENSEI SAY TO YOU?!
HE GAVE YOU SOME INSTRUC-TIONS, RIGHT?
14

I KINDA REMINDS ME OF SOMEBODY
NOW THAT I GET A GOOD LOOK AT HIM, THAT GUY...
INSTRUC-TIONS...
THAT SENSEI GAVE ME?
That's it!
he told me to stop that baldy once and for all...!
AGAWA
I'M BEGGIN' YOU, PLEASE DON' DO ANYTHIN' RECKLESS...
I DON' WANNA BE HUMIL-IATED...
YOU LIAR!!
I think.
He said to make a comeback with a long-distance shot...
REALLY
SERIOUSLY, WHAT'D HE TELL YOU?!
Mu?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE, OKAY?
OOKAY. LISTEN CLOSE, SUMMER... YOU'RE GONNA FOLLOW SENSEI'S INSTRUCTIONS, AND THAT'S IT!

KEEP ON THEM, GUYS!!
DON'T BACK DOWN JUST BECAUSE YOUR OPPONENT'S BIG!!
OOOO OOKAY! LET'S STOP A POINT HERE!!

Play is re-suming!
ANRI'S RING!
SFX PIIIII

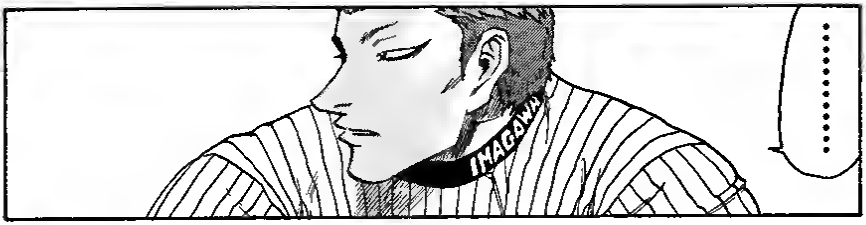
I DON' WANNA!

I DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE, BUT
.....

SFX ZAH
I'M GONNA STOP YOU...!
JUST LIKE I WAS INSTRUC-TED...

SFX BASHI
STIR THINGS UP, IKKI!
UI!

!



SFX: GAN

DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THE OPPONENT!!
YOU IDIOT!!
HWAAAAAA?!
I'll be taking a 4th point!!
HAHHAH! WHAT AN EASY BASTARD!
SFX BAH
YUMI-BA!!
4

!!
WHAT AN INCRED-IBLE PASS!!!
UWAA AAAH
SAORI !!
WHU AAAA
SFX GAH
THANKS, A LO---T! ♪
SFX BASHI

YOU'D BETTER NOT GET COCKY!!
Damn ...
SFX: GABA
SFX: DAH
BASTARD.
AH!
LITTLE 1ST YEAR,
GU...
!
DON'T BE TOO ROUGH, RED!!
YOU'LL GET ANOTHER CARD!!
They're gonna make their way in for a 4th poiiiiint!!
URAA!
Aaaa! Don't slam into him, Aka!!
I'M NOT ...

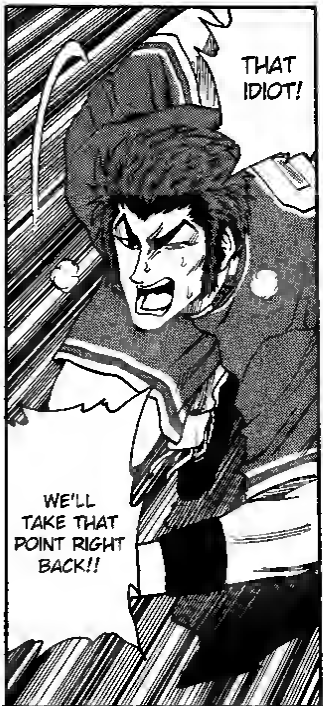
*IF THE DEFENSE PERFORMS A FOUL WITHIN THE GOAL AREA, THEN THE OFFENSE IS GIVEN ONE FREE-THROW

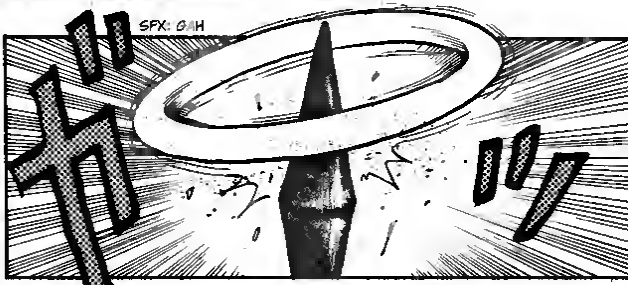
FORGET ABOUT EVERYBODY ELSE! AND YOU DON'T NEED TO BE PART OF THE OFFENSE, EITHER!!
ALL YOU SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT IS HOW TO STOP THAT BALDY!!
JUST STICK TO THAT GUY LIKE GLUE!! GOOOT IIIIT?

DID YOU FORGET WHAT SENSEI TOLD YOU?!
I DON'T WANNA HEAR THAT SHIT FROM YOU!!
BUT IF I HADN'T FOULED HIM THEY DEFINITELY WOULD'VE GOTTEN A POINT...
HM?

LISTEN UP!
SFX: GAH

GUMU~~~...


THAT IDIOT!
WE'LL TAKE THAT POINT RIGHT BACK!!

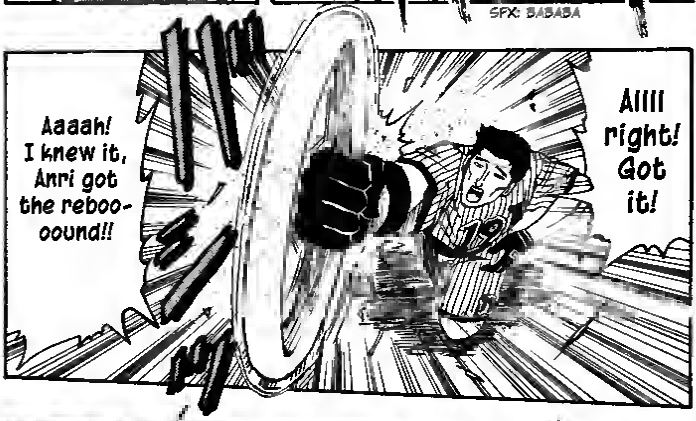

SFX: GAH

SFX: WAAAAA
Their momentum is unstoppable !!
Anri scores its 4th point!!
He got the free-throoooow !!
YAMAOKU
ANRI
02
1
04

HM?
!!
SFX: BIH
DON'T LET AKA JUST DO WHATEVER HE WANTS !!
PRESS HIM!!
HE'S LETTING THEM GET TO HIM!!
YOU IDIOT !!
HE'S WAY OUTSIDE THE AREA!!
HUH .....?
HE...
HE SHOT IT?!
IS HE GOING FOR A BONUS SHOT?!
GOOD
IS GETTING HASTY.
THAT AKA KID..
SFX BAM
BUT WE'VE GOT THE JUMPING POWER ...!!
ANRI MAY HAVE THE HEIGHT,
JUMP, YOUSUKEE !!
AND THAT'S AN EASY REBOUND FOR ANRI!!
TAKE A GOOD LOOK! THOSE DON'T GO IN THAT EASY!!

UH, HEY!
9

LEAVE IT TA MEEE !!
15
11
Ouh!
URAa!
SFX: BABABA


Aaaah! I knew it, Anri got the reboo-oound!!
Allll right! Got it!

HEY, WHA ...
YER IN THA WAY!
AH?
ISN'T IT BETTER TO HAVE MORE PEOPLE?
11

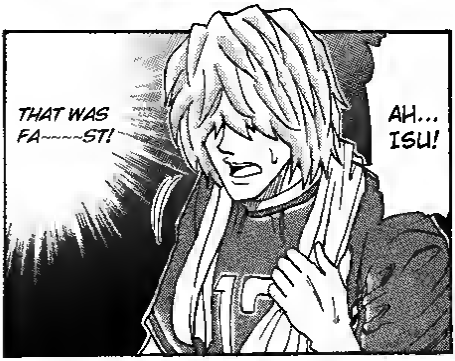
Run, Ikki!!!

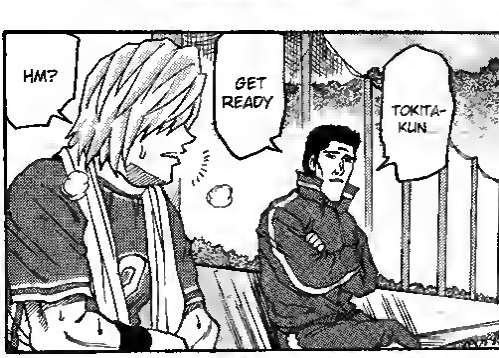
HEEY, SUMMER! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE, YOU IDIOT!!

DAMMI...
SFX: BLIN
SFX: KIYA
SFX: GYAOA
WAIT, YOU BASTAAAARD !!!
AH ...

THAT 1ST YEAR'S PRETTY FAST!!
Oh?
.....!

HM .....
.....


THAT WAS FA~~~~ST!
AH... ISU!


HM?
GET READY
TOKITA-KUN

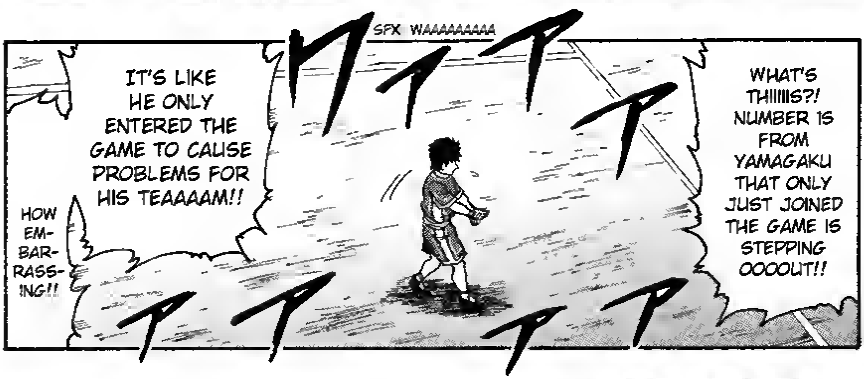
GU...

THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN CATCH UP TO IKKI!!
I KNEW IT, IT'S NO GOOD !!
GRIN
BAST-ARD...
SFX: WAAAAAA
SFX: BASHI
THE SPEED STAR IMAGAWA IKKI SURE IS LIVING UP TO HIS REPUTATION !!!
BAM! HE SCOOORED! 5TH POINT!!
NOBODY CAN STOP THEM NOW!!!

STEP OUT!!
HEY, SWITCH OUT, SUMMER!

WHY DON'T YOU EVER LISTEN TO PEOPLE, YOU FUCKING MORON !!!
SUMME-EEER!!

SFX: GABIIIN
'A COURSE! GO COOL YOUR HEAD A LITTLE, IDIOT!!
HU~~~H? NO WAAAAYZ !!


SFX: WAAAAAAAAA
IT'S LIKE HE ONLY ENTERED THE GAME TO CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR HIS TEAAAAM!!
HOW EM-BARRASS-ING!!
WHAT'S THIIIIIS?! NUMBER 15 FROM YAMAGAKU THAT ONLY JUST JOINED THE GAME IS STEPPING OOOOUT!!

HEH..... GO AHEAD ...
IF YOU CAN, THAT IS...

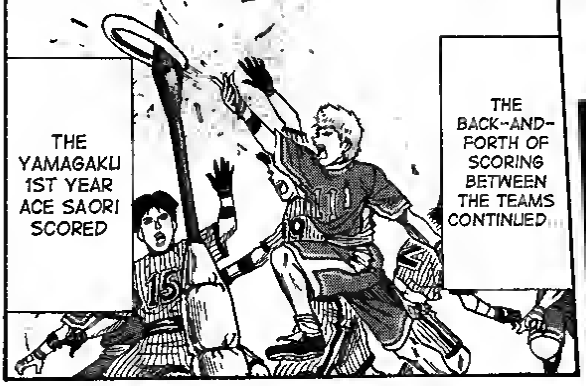
REMEMBER THIS, BASTAAARD
I PROMISE I'M GONNA LEAVE YOU SPEECHLESS ...

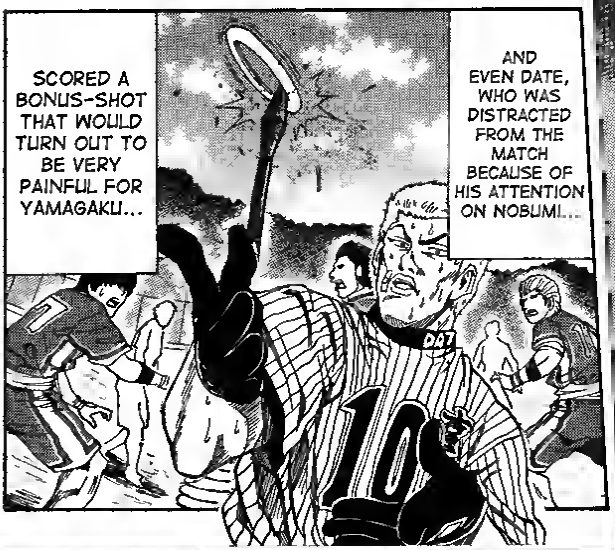
HE'S A TOTAL CLOWN!
KAKKAKKA! MA~~~N, THIS GUY'S ENTERTAINING!
ケラケラ
GUNU ...

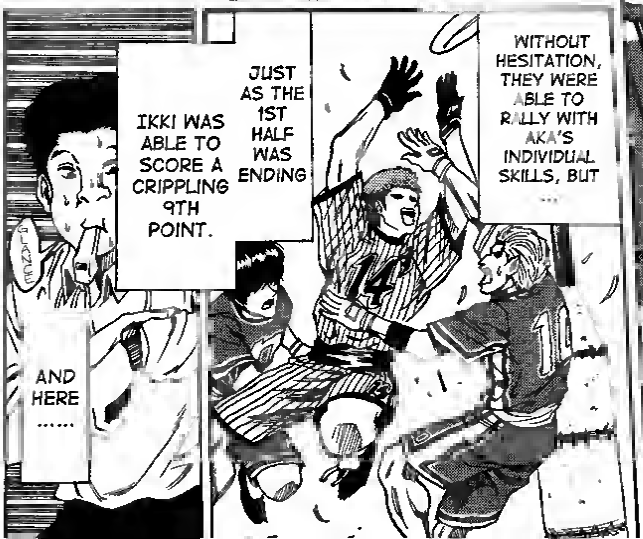
HM
HUH?
OKAY, SUMMER-KUN!
Here's a towel!
GOOD WORK OUT THERE!
SFX: BIKUH
!!
HANAGATA-KUN, PLEASE COME HERE A MOMENT
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! WE'VE STILL GOT PLENTY OF MATCH TO GO!
I'M REALLY GOOD!
AA~~~~ YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRO~~~NG! ASHUKA-SENPAI~~~ I'M REALLY NOT THAT BA~~~D!
LET'S JUST DO OUR BEST!
I'M REALLY MUCH, MUCH
YOU DON'T KNOW ...?
WHA ...?
HM... ? ABOUT WHAT?
LOOK HOW SORRY I AM!
SUPER-VISOR!
I AM SORRY,

HUH.....
FOR REAL?
YOU STAYED POSITIVE AND YOUR MOVEMENT WAS SHARP, TOO, HANAGATA-KUN...!
THIS WAS YOUR FIRST MATCH, BUT YOU WEREN'T NERVOUS OR STIFF.....
NU?
HOW-EVER?
AW MA~~~~N! I THOUGHT HE WASN'T GOING TO PUT ME IN ANYMORE...
ER~~~~ I GUESS YOU REALLY WERE WATCHING ME THEN!
SHOULDVE THOUGHT SO
YES..... SOME ERRORS IN JUDGEMENT ARE TO BE EXPECTED FOR SOMEONE WITHOUT ANY REAL GAME EXPERIENCE...
HOWEVER ...
WE'RE GONNA LOSE.
AS FAR AT THE GAME GOES, AS THINGS CURRENTLY STAND,

AND IT'S IKKI AGAIIIIIN !!
SCOOOORE! THAT'S THE 6TH POINT!!!
SFX: WAH
6 to 2 !!
.....
THAT GUY ...
LOOKS LIKE THE DIFFERENCE IN THE TEAMS' ABILITY IS STARTING TO BECOME APPARENT!!
S...
SUPER-VISOR!!
YOU DON'T LIKE LOSING, RIGHT, HANAGATA-KUN?
SFX: NIKO (SMILE)
ニコ
VERY GOOD.
SFX: GOGO
To somebody as 'addicted to winning' as Hanagata Natsu...
that's a silly question!
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, HANAGATA-KUN.
OKAY, LISTEN CLOSELY TO WHAT SENSEI HAS TO SAY.


THE YAMAGAKU 1ST YEAR ACE SAORI SCORED
THE BACK-AND-FORTH OF SCORING BETWEEN THE TEAMS CONTINUED...


SCORED A BONUS-SHOT THAT WOULD TURN OUT TO BE VERY PAINFUL FOR YAMAGAKU...
AND EVEN DATE, WHO WAS DISTRACTED FROM THE MATCH BECAUSE OF HIS ATTENTION ON NOBUMI...


AND HERE .....
IKKI WAS ABLE TO SCORE A CRIPPLING 9TH POINT.
JUST AS THE 1ST HALF WAS ENDING
WITHOUT HESITATION, THEY WERE ABLE TO RALLY WITH AKA'S INDIVIDUAL SKILLS, BUT ...

AND AFTER THAT—

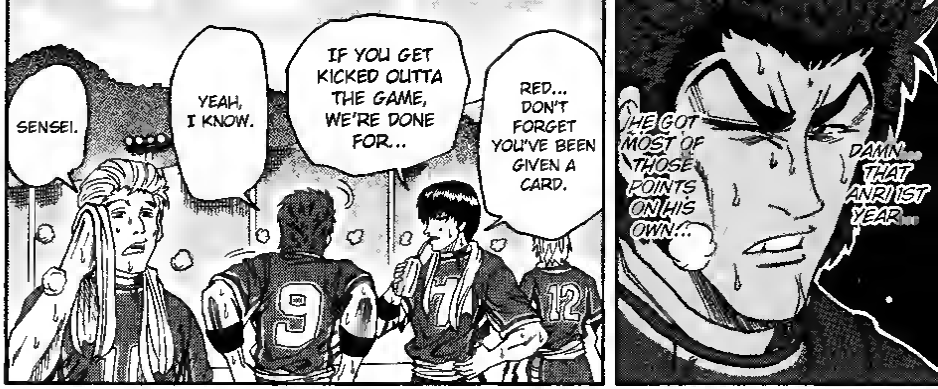
THE 1ST HALF ENDS WITH ANRI HAVING A 5-POINT LEAAAAAD!!
トゥルルルル
9 to 4 !!
Time up!!
YAMAGAKU
ANRI
04
1
09
HAA
HAA
HAA
SFX. PIPPIIIH

IS COMPLETELY OURS!
HUHU... THIS MATCH
GRIN

ALL RIGHT! WELL DONE, BOYS...!
YOU GOT 4 MORE POINTS SCORED ON YOU THAN YOU SHOULD HAVE IN THE 1ST HALF, BUT
YAMAGAKU SHOULD SLOW DOWN IN THE 2ND HALF... THERE'S NO WAY THEY HAVE THE STRENGTH LEFT TO WIN BACK 5 POINTS...

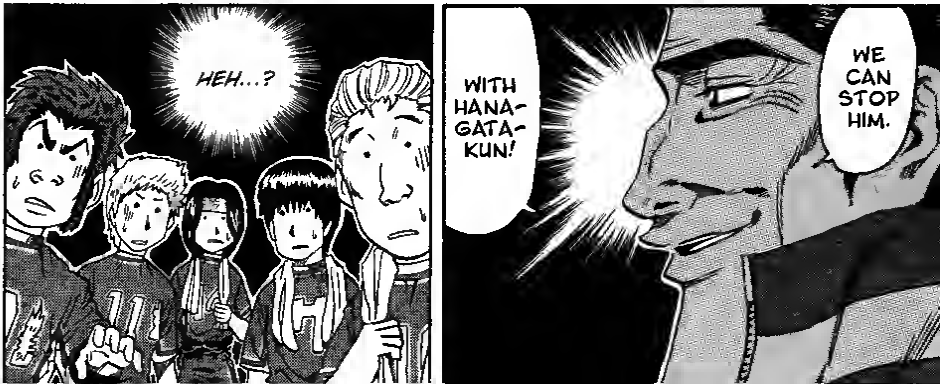
We came all the way here ta cheer you guys on, ya know!! Be a little more serious out there, dammit!!
SHEDDEEEEP! AND YOUR BREATH STIIINKS, GEORGE!!
AKA-KUUN! PLEASE EAT THE LUNCH I MADE YOU! ♡
Stop talkin'
I DON' WANT IT!

SFX. WAH
Heey, Aka!! What're you doing! You're losin', ain'cha?!!
AKA-KUUUUN! NICE WORK OUT THEEERE! ♡

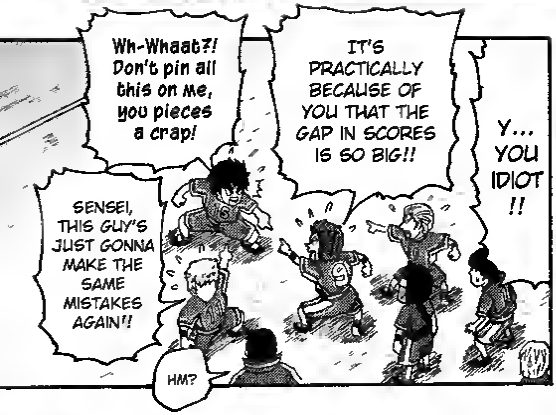

SENSEI.
YEAH, I KNOW.
IF YOU GET KICKED OUTTA THE GAME, WE'RE DONE FOR...
RED... DON'T FORGET YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN A CARD.
HE GOT MOST OF THOSE POINTS ON HIS OWN!...
DAMN... THAT ANRI 1ST YEAR...

I'D REALLY LIKE IT IF BOTH YOU AND KIYOMIZU-KUN HEARTILY PARTICIPATED IN OUR TEAM'S ATTACK, TOO...!
YOU'VE GOT IT BACKWARDS, SEKI-KUN... WE NEED TO STRESS OFFENSE IN THE 2ND HALF.
MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE JUST ONE MORE PERSON CHANGE POSITIONS..
HONESTLY, IT'S REALLY HARD TO KEEP UP THE DEFENSE WITH JUST KIYOKIYO AND I...
HM?

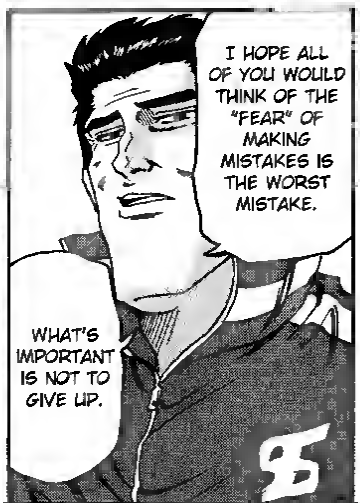
CAN WE REALLY JUST IGNORE ANRI'S ATTACK?
EVEN IF WE KEEP OUR OPPONENTS FROM SCORING A SINGLE POINT IN THE 2ND HALF, WE CAN'T WIN UNLESS WE SCORE 6...
A 5 POINT DIFFERENCE IS REALLY TOUGH...
HUH?! BUT...
THAT 1ST YEAR IS...


HEH...?
WITH HANAGATA-KUN!
WE CAN STOP HIM.

GUYS!
YOU ALL CAN RELAX! I GOT THIS .....!!


Wh-Whaat?! Don't pin all this on me, you pieces a crap!
IT'S PRACTICALLY BECAUSE OF YOU THAT THE GAP IN SCORES IS SO BIG!!
Y... YOU IDIOT !!
SENSEI, THIS GUY'S JUST GONNA MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN!!
HM?

LOSING MEANS GIVING UP.....
UNDER-STAND ...?
NO MATTER HOW BIG AND COMPLICATED A MAZE YOU'RE IN, THERE'S ALWAYS AN EXIT...
HANAGATA-KUN HAS THAT TENACITY NOT TO GIVE UP.
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T GIVE UP, YOU CAN BE CERTAIN YOU'LL EVENTUALLY MAKE IT TO THE GOAL ....


I HOPE ALL OF YOU WOULD THINK OF THE "FEAR" OF MAKING MISTAKES IS THE WORST MISTAKE.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS NOT TO GIVE UP.

I WANT EVERYONE TO CONCENTRATE HARD ON OFFENSE AND ATTACK...!
ANYHOW, THE THEME FOR THE 2ND HALF WILL BE SCORING POINTS...!!
SFX: OOO
OU!!
DON'T COUNT ON SUMMER !!
ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS TRUST SENSEI AND FIGHT!!
OOOKAY! LET'S GOOO!!
SHUT UP!!
SFX: PIH
It's time!
The 2nd half is starting !!
SFX: OOH!
Let's make the lead even bigger in the 2nd half!!
Don't go easy on 'em!!
OOKAY, GO DEAL THE FINISHING BLOW, BOYS!!
GOT IT!!

I KNOW HOW TO CONVINCE HIM.....
HIS DAD WAS A SELFISH GUY, TOO...
FIRST OF ALL, I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE WAS ACTUALLY LISTENING TO YOU
IS... IS HE GONNA BE OKA----Y? THAT SUMMER KID...?
HE'LL BE FINE.
HUH?
SFX: PIIIH
Throw-off!!!
Yama-gaku's Ring!!
SFX: WAH
ARE THEY ALL GOING FOR AN ATTACK NOW?!
OOOOO!! YAMA-GAKU!!
GET FIRED UP, EVERY-BODYYY!!
URAA! LET'S GOOO!!
OU!! LET'S MAKE A COME-BACK!!
BUT I'M ACTUALLY THANKFUL THAT THAT'S THEIR STRATEGY...!
WELL, THAT'S ONLY NATURAL IF YOU CONSIDER THE POINT DIFFERENCE
SFX: NYARI (GRIN)
FOR US TO COUNTER-ATTACK!
BECAUSE IT'LL BE EASIER

ALL RIIIGHT!
UWAaA! Aka's faaa-aast!!!
SFX: BIH BABABA
THAT FORM WAS AWKWARD AS HELL!
NO WAY IT'S GOIN' IN!
OOK!!
AAAAAH! SO CLOSE!!
SFX: GAH
IT'S OBVIOUS WHERE IT'S
GONNA BOUNCE!
Anri's good!!!
Quick attaa-ack,
IKKI!!
SFX: DAH
DAMN!
GET BACK !!

LOOKS LIKE IKKI'S GONNA BE THE STAR OF THE SHOW IN THE 2ND HALF, TOOOOO!!
Here it coooomes! Anri's specialty counter!!
SFX: WAAAAA
SFX: BAN
!!

HM ...?
SUMME-EEER!!
!!
HEH.
YOU AIN'T GETTING BY ME ...!
BASTARD ...
YOU CAN'T LET "HIM" RUN!
FIRST,
IS PREVENTING YOUR OPPONENT FROM GETTING PAST YOU.
THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF DEFENSE
THERE'S NO NEED TO ACTUALLY TAKE THE RING FROM HIM.
YOU MEAN THAT BALD BASTARD?
JUST FOCUS ON STOPPING HIS MOVEMENT.
DAMN.

AH!
IKKI!
!
SFX: BYU
!!
ORAA!!
SFX: BAKOH
SFX: WAAA
They scored!
They beat Anri at their own game!!
UWAAAA! THIS TIME YAMAGAKU COUNTERED!!
HE INTERCEPTED IT!!
OOOKAY, NOW GO FOR A COUNTER !!
SFX: BAN
OH!
ALL RIIIGHT! NICE ONE!!
O... Oo...
WHAT WE NEED TO PREVENT FIRST AND FOREMOST
IS THE ONE-MAN QUICK ATTACK WHERE THEY HAVE A CLEAR CHANCE TO SCORE

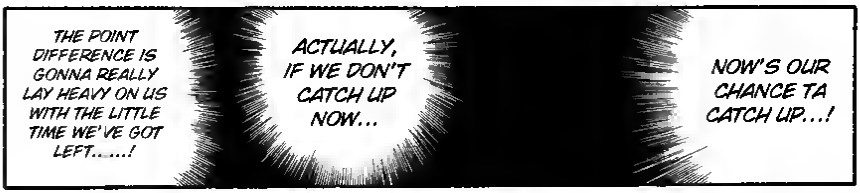
ANRI'S SPECIALTY QUICK ATTACK WON'T BE QUITE SO FEARSOME.
IF THE REST OF THE TEAM CAN MAKE IT IN THE TIME HANAGATA-KUN HAS STOPPED HIM IN PLACE...
SFX DON
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ME, DAMMIT!
HAS HE TOTALLY SEALED IKKI OFF?!!
IT'S MAN TO MAAAAN!!
WILL YOU REALLY BE ABLE TO STOP OUR ACE AS EASILY AS YOU PLANNED?
BUT...
YOU'VE TOUCHED ONE OF OUR VITAL POINTS QUITE ACCURATELY...
YOU REALLY REVISED YOUR STRATEGY FROM THE 1ST HALF FAST. I SHOULD EXPECT NOTHING LESS, FUJI-CHAN.

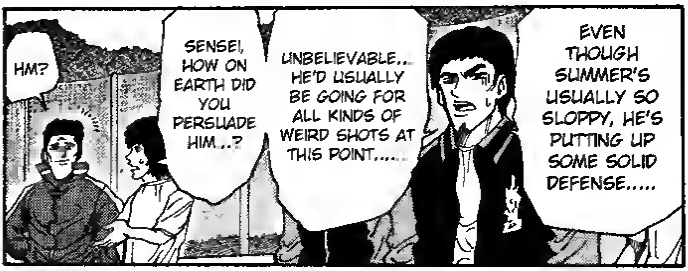
AND MOVE IN-STEP WITH HIM.
BUT YOU CAN'T SETTLE DOWN
STUPID BASTARD!
DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK YOU CAN KEEP UP WITH MY SPEED?!
SFX: DAH
YOU NEED TO BE NIMBLE IN BLOCKING THEIR COURSE
IF THE OPPONENT TRIES TO FORCE THEIR WAY THROUGH
YOU JUST WANT TO FOCUS ON KEEPING HIM FROM GETTING PAST YOU
SFX: DON
SFX: BAN
BLOCK THE COURSE !!
VOH!

BUT IN A 5-METER DASH, I'M NOT SO SURE.....
EVEN HANAGATA-KUN.....
IF THEY RAN A 100-METER DASH WITH IMAGAWA-KUN, IT'S LIKELY NOBODY COULD BEAT HIM.....
IN A MATCH OF EXPLOSIVE POWER, HANAGATA-KUN HAS THE CLEAR ADVANTAGE...!
HANAGATA-KUN IS A PLAYER THAT'S TRULY GREAT AT GOING FROM STANDING STILL STRAIGHT INTO A SPRINT.
THAT WAS FAST!!
UWAA! What the hell?!
DID HE WARP OR SOME-THING?!!
SFX: WAH
TO REACH HIS TOP SPEED, THEN WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEER.
IN OTHER WORDS, IF HE DOESN'T GIVE IMAGAWA-KUN A LONG ENOUGH RANGE
SFX: GAH
GO SCORE IN MY PLACE!!
ALL RIIGHT! AKA-CHIN, GOOOOOO !!
GOT IT!
AH!

Like I'm just gonna let you!
SFX: DON
HAH!
Ram into...
DO!
Mo?
RAM RIGHT INTO THAT GUUUUU !!!
AKA-KUUUUN !!!
SFX: POH
SFX: WAA
It's 9 to 6 !!
YAMA-GAKU SLOWLY BUT SURELY CLOSING THE GAP!!
UWAAA! AKA SCOOO-OORED!!
SFX: DAN
!!
YOU'RE OPEN!!
SFX: IRA IRA (ANNOYANCE)
HE SHOULD STILL HAVE THE STAMINA EVEN CONSIDERING HE'S PLAYING 2 MATCHES IN A ROW.....
NUU... DATE'S MOVEMENT IS UNUSUALLY BAD IN THIS MATCH.....
IT'S BECAUSE OF NOBUMI

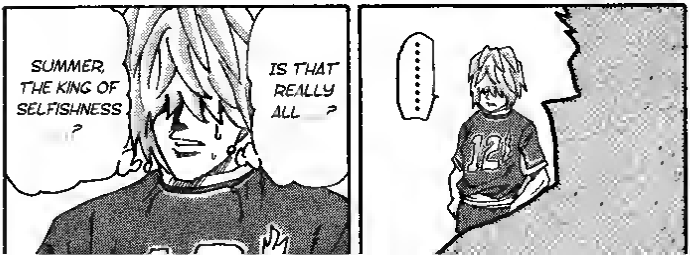
BY SUMMER STOPPING IKKI, THE FLOW'S NATURALLY GOIN' OUR WAY...!
IT'S SUMMER....
.....
SORTA. OR RATHER
KINDA..... FEELS LIKE YAMAGAKU HAS THE MOMENTUM NOW, DOESN'T IT?
ANRI'S MOMENTUM'S GONE DOWN A LITTLE


THE POINT DIFFERENCE IS GONNA REALLY LAY HEAVY ON US WITH THE LITTLE TIME WE'VE GOT LEFT.....!
ACTUALLY, IF WE DON'T CATCH UP NOW...
NOW'S OUR CHANCE TA CATCH UP...!


HM?
SENSEI, HOW ON EARTH DID YOU PERSUADE HIM..?
UNBELIEVABLE... HE'D USUALLY BE GOING FOR ALL KINDS OF WEIRD SHOTS AT THIS POINT.....
EVEN THOUGH SUMMER'S USUALLY SO SLOPPY, HE'S PUTTING UP SOME SOLID DEFENSE.....

C'MOOOON! COME GET US, ANRI!!
I'LL STOP EVERY LAST ONE 'A YOU!!

I TOLD HIM THAT IF HE WANTED TO WIN, THAT'S WHAT HE HAD TO DO..... HANAGATA-KUN REALLY HATES LOSING, YOU SEE.....
IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE VICTORY, YOU HAVE TO BOTH CHANGE YOUR PLAYS AND HOW YOU THINK ABOUT THEM...


SUMMER, THE KING OF SELFISHNESS ?
IS THAT REALLY ALL ?
.....

I WANT YOU TO FOCUS ON DEFENSE.
NO.
CAN I SHOOT, TOO?
AND WHAT ABOUT ATTACKING— SENSEI?
HUH?
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT DEFENDING FOR THE ENTIRE TIME.
I WANNA LOOK GOOD FOR ASHUKA-SENSPAI~~~~!!
I DON' WANNA~~~ I WANNA SHOOT, TOO~~~~!!
IN PRETTY MUCH ALL OF THEM, ANRI IS A LEVEL OR TWO ABOVE US .....
TECHNIQUE, STAMINA, SPIRIT, STRATEGY, TEAMWORK .....
IF I'M BEING HONEST, THE ODDS OF US WINNING WILL STILL BE LOW
EVEN IF YOU'RE ABLE TO DO A GOOD JOB STOPPING IKKI-KUN
!
ON YOU!
WE'RE BETTING
GOING INTO THE 2ND HALF THIS GAP IN POINTS WILL PROBABLY ONLY BECOME MORE PRONOUNCED...
THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN HANAGATA-KUN

IF Ikki can't do it, then I'll go all the way myself!!
URAAA !!!
THERE HE IIIS! UEMATSU WITH A DIRECT SCOOO-OORE !!!
YAMAGAKU ANRI
6-10
SFX DOGON
THAT GUY'S STRONG !!
Don't look down on Anri, the kings!!
ANRI STILL HAS IT!!
THEY WON'T GIVE UP THE MOMENTUM! !!
SFX WAAAAA
DAMN.
THEY'RE A STUBBORN BUNCH .....
DON'T GET QUIET ON MEE!!
SFX GUH
IH ?!

HMMMM? WHAT'S WRONG, AKA?!
TAKE IT!
AW MAN...
AHT AH ...!!
ピ
!
SFX: PIKI
SFX: WAAAA
I GUESS PLAYING 2 MATCHES IN A ROW IS REALLY TAKING IT'S TOLLLLLL!!
KU...
AAAAAH! AKA HURT HIS LEEEEG!!
HE SOUNDS LIKE HE'S IN TROUBLE!
AND NOT JUST THAT, OUR OPPONENT IS ANRI...
MUU..... SAORI'S PLAYED IN BOTH GAMES, TOO...
ISU!
GET READY, TOKITA!
SHIT..... AT THIS POINT, OUR LACK OF BENCH STRENGTH IS REALLY HURTING US...!!
HAA
HAA
HAA
EVERYONE'S PROBABLY REACHING THEIR PEAK OF FATIGUE .....

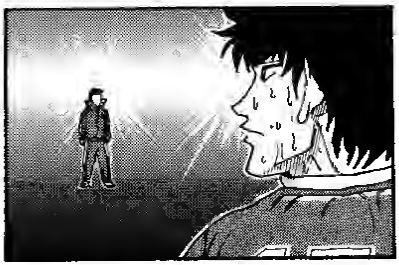
7 MINUTES AND A LITTLE
HEY, HOW MANY MINUTES ARE LEFT?
HANG TIGHT, YOU GUYS!!
SHIT ...
SFX: WAAA
NOW'S THE TIME TO FINISH THEM!!!
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!!
SFX: KUU
THEY'RE TOTALLY OUT OF IT NOW!
THIS'LL BE AN EASY VICTORY !!
SFX: ZUBAH
WE MAY NOT MAKE IT...
7 MINUTES LEFT AND A 4-POINT GAP...
SFX: BAH
I CAN'T JUST LET YOU END IT LIKE THAT!
This'll finish it!!

WHAAAAAAAAAH?!
SFX: WAAAA
WHAAAAT?! IT'S SUM-MEEEEER!!
HE TOOK IIIIT!!!
WE'VE STILL GOT ONE GUY BURSTING WITH ENERGY!!
RIGHT HERE!!!
SFX: AAAA
UWAAA! IT'S SAORIIII!!
WITH ALL HIS MIGHT, HE GOT A 7TH POINT!!
YAMAGAKU ANRI 7-10
THEY'VE SUNK THEIR TEETH IN!! DON'T GIVE UP, YAMAGAKU !!!
SFX: GUH
YOU SHOULD JUST MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELVES AND DROP DEAD!!
SFX: WAH
GIVE IT HERE, SUMMEEEER !!!
GYAAAAA! SUMMER-KUUUM!
NICE GOIIIN, SUMME-EEEER!!

THE BOOK YOU RIPPED OFF FROM THAT STORE BACK THEN...
HUHU
I JUST REMEMBERED
VWAH!
YOU SHOULD DROP DEAD, MORON!!
SFX: BAH
DOKI
IT WAS A PORNO MAG, WASN'T IT?
Wh... Whaaat ...?
UWAAA! SUMMER TOOK IT AGAIIIIN!!
SFX: GAH
THEEEERE, GOT IT!
IT'LL BE FINE, SUPERVISOR.
STOP HIM!!
WHAT THE HELL'S HE DOING...!!
THERE'S NO TIME LEFT... WE'VE WON THIS.
IT LOOKED A LITTLE SCARY THERE FOR A MINUTE, BUT...

FREAKIN' RUN, LONG HAIR-KUN!
HEY, DAMMIT!
DON'T GET WORN OUT YET!!
WE'VE GOTTA COUNTER, ORAA!!
MOVE UP!!
WE'RE GONNA LOSE...
IT'S NO GOOD...
HAA
HAA
HAA
THAT WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH!!
EVEN IF BY SOME MIRACLE WE GOT A BONUS SHOT,
HAA
HAA
HAA
WE'VE GOT ONE MORE PLAY... AND AKA-SAN'S OUT OF IT.....
THERE'S JUST UNDER 3 MINUTES LEFT..... A 3 POINT GAP...
HAA
HAA
DON' GIVE UP!!
THAT'S RIGHT!!
SAORI !!
YOU-SUKE !!
WE CAN'T GIVE UP, GUYS!!
NAW, NOT YET!!
KEEP RUNNING TILL THE END!!!
EVERYONE FELT IT.....
YOU-SUKE ...!!
BUT...
WE CAN STILL MAKE A COME-BACK!!
WE CAN STILL ...

TO CATCH UP NOW...
HOW VERY DIFFICULT IT WOULD BE.....



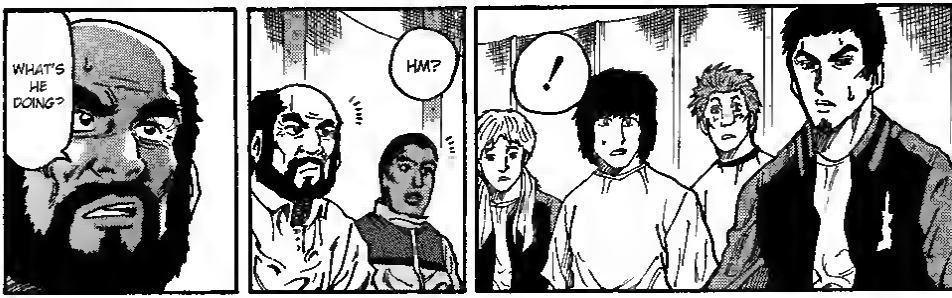
EXCEPT FOR ONE OF THEM——

THERE'S 3 OR SO MINUTES LEFT.....
AND WE'RE 3 OR MORE POINTS BEHIND..

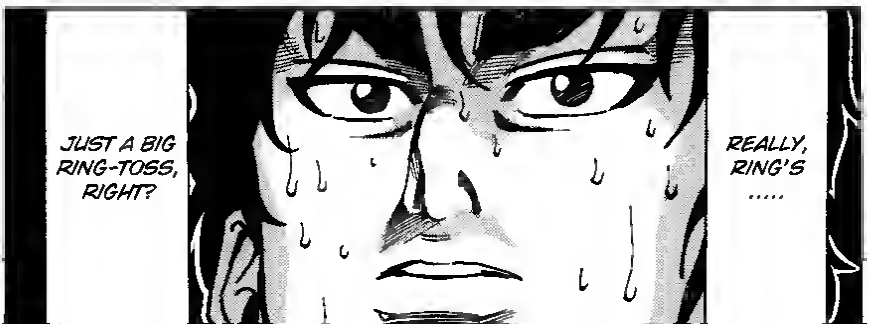
IF

!
HANAGATA-KUN
YOU CAN SHOOT...
IF YOU CAN SCORE ONE OF THOSE, YOU GET 5 BONUS SHOT'S... IN OTHER
A *VICTORY SHOT
*A SHOT FROM YOUR OWN GOAL AREA
RIGHT NOW, NO ONE ON ANRI IS THINKING ABOUT YOU SHOOTING.
NOT ALLOWING YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN OFFENSE IS A STRATEGY...
SO WE CAN BE CERTAIN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SHOOT UNGUARDED
FOR REAL?!
WE CAN COME-BACK
THAT SOUNDS EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN A REGULAR BONUS SHOT!
YOU MIGHT BECOME A LEGEND.
IF YOU CAN SCORE THAT, THEN

SFX: SU...

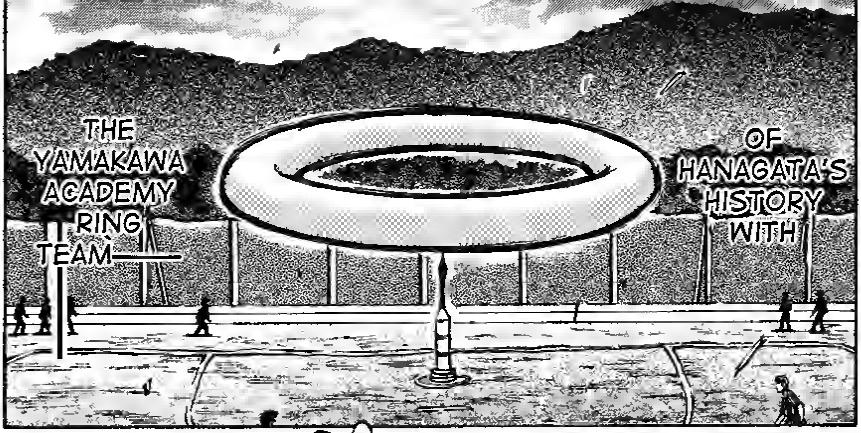

WHAT'S HE DOING?
HM?
!

HEY, HEY ...
SUM-MER-KUN!
NO WAY ...
HUH?
HE'S ...


JUST A BIG RING-TOSS, RIGHT?
REALLY, RING'S .....

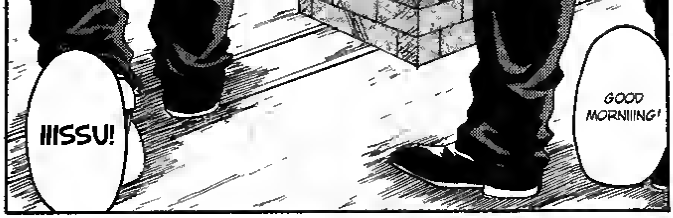
IS HE TRYING TO SHOOT IT?!
IS HE AN IDIOT?!
...HUH? HE'S PASSING IT, RIGHT?
SO YOU WANTED TO DO THAT, HUH...?
I GET IT...
HM?
WHO'S EVER
EVEN IN THE PROS, THERE'S ONLY A SINGLE PERSON
THIS IS JUST THEIR LAST-DITCH ATTEMPT. NO WAY IN HELL CAN THEY SCORE A VICTORY SHOT...
THINK ABOUT IT.
OF COURSE, DON'T MIND HIM!
SUPER-VISOR! SHOULD WE JUST LET HIM SHOOT?
AS A KID.
DO THOSE WITH MY DAD A LOT
I USED TO
ARE YOU WATCHING ...?
HEY.....

THIS IS..
JUST A BEGIN-NING—


THE YAMAKAWA ACADEMY RING TEAM—
OF HANAGATA'S HISTORY WITH

OF THE MANY THAT ONE BEGINNER WOULD LEAVE BEHIND.....
AND THE BEGINNING OF JUST ONE.....

LEGENDS——


IIISSU!
GOOD MORNIING!

SHEDDEP !!
WAHHAHHA! IT REALLY SUITS, YOU, SUMMEEEER!

THE NEXT DAY—

AT LEAST IT FEELS COOL!
WELL...
3 RING (END)
END
PART 1

Shimabu's Story

(Until I made Ring (1))

Well, I said I was gonna go look for a hoop, but they didn't exist (hehe), so I had to just look for a ring close to the ones used in RING. The first thing that came to mind for me was a "hula hoop". The first thing I had in mind when I was first thinking about RING was a hula hoop, so I figured I'd start by testing it out with a hula hoop... So I went to a large sports store and looked for a hula hoop. I never expected to be buying a hula hoop at this age... At that time, I was still writing Names in Okinawa, but I came across a nearby large (really, it was huge) sports shop. So I went there and found one pretty easily, a hula hoop. But! I thought at the time, this was really totally different from what I imagined!! How was it different...? Well first, it felt too slender when I gripped it and the ring itself was huge! And when I threw it on the ground, it didn't bounch as high as I expected it to... Mmm, this is frustrating... I'd had memories of hula hoops sprining high into the air when I threw them on the ground... And it was plastic, so it felt like if you threw it too hard it would break. I tested it out in the shop before I bought it, and I had been thinking it wouldn't look too good if I broke it before I even bought it... (Hehe). So it turned out there was too big gap in what a real hula hoop was and what I'd imagined... That was unavoidable.

Okay, so with the hula hoop being off from what I'd imagined, what should I try next... Thinking about it, the next thing that came to mind was bicycle tube. Those are made of rubber, so they should bounce, and their thickness and texture should be just about right, I thought. So I looked around that same sports shop and there, I found it, a tube. But there were all tubes for adult bicycles which were too big, also way off from how I'd imagined them. But when I tried grasping the tires full of air for stuff like mountain bikes, they felt like they matched the rings from the RING I had in my head perfectly! The thickness was perfect, too. There was just a problem of size, and of course it was a bicycle tire, so they had a thing sticking out to put air into the tube. That thing was really gonna get in the way, and if it were just the tube, that would be facing outward... So at that time I bought a tire cover sorta thing to cover the outside of the tube. Or, not so much a cover as an actual tire. The type that have no tube inside.

Shimabu's Story

(Until I made Ring (12))

Those are also technically rubber, but it was the outside of a tire so it had the gouged-out inside shape (Like a handle cover in a car). So of course it didn't bounce, even if you threw it hard on the ground, it would just go limp so it was totally different from the image in my head. So basically in a "this'll be fine for now" way I bought it.

Okay, okay, time to start a game of RING (hehe)! Yes! With that tire!! Though I actually didn't have any rules decided yet. So I ended up just tossing the ball, or rather the ring, back and forth with my brother (Like, a pass facing each other). We did it in a vacant lot nearby the house we grew up in, but if anybody had seen us there, they were probably wondering what the hell these guys were doing (Hehe). Because at first glance it looks like we're throwing a frisbee around, but upon closer inspection, it's 'These guys are throwing a tire back and forth!!' (Hehe). So what we did was we gradually got further and further away from each other and we passed it back and forth at a maximum of 40-50 meters and me and my little brother were able to pass it directly to one another at that range. But when we caught it, it actually kinda hurt. I guess that was because of the rotation. If the sport of Ring really existed, if the pro-level players threw this Ring, the speed of the rotation would be nothing like this, right...?, I thought. It was at that point that I decided to give the players gloves. I felt like RING was finally starting to take form, and I remember getting pretty excited then... Kyahaha (Hehe).

The next thing I tried to do was Shooting. Of course I've said this hundreds of times (No you didn't!), that a RING goal poll doesn't exist in this world, so I just used an iron pipe that was sitting around in the vacant lot that had been used in a construction site and used it like a goal. That was where I tried throwing it using the sort of tricks you use in a ring-toss. But these didn't really go in (Hehe). Even if I really tried, I still couldn't get a ringer. Man, that's hard!! If I got close enough I could get it in, but when I got just a bit further away, around 5~6 meters, it really got pretty difficult! But! BUT YOU SEE!! Sorry, I got kinda heated here., (hehe) but please listen!!

Shimabu's Story

(Until I made Ring (13))

The joy I felt at the moment I did get it in seriously felt great!! I was pretty casual about that joy, but it was pretty intense (Hehe)!! It was incomparable to the feeling for getting a 3-pointer in basketball!! If I had to compare it to something it would be like getting a goal in soccer or at least close to it in terms of tension. That's how happy I was from that! I mean, it was just my little brother and I there with nobody else around, just throwing a tire so it went around a pipe, and I felt that excited... In a way, it was a real shock... Kinda like I'd found some sorta jewel in a place nobody else knew about (That's an exaggeration for ya!) Hehe. But really, that's what I thought at the time. Aah... I want to convey "RING" with this... I thought. The characters and the story and the subject matter would all be fictional, but that one thing I actually felt was real. Just the idea of throwing a hoop onto a poll really made electricity flow in my body. Like around 2 volts worth... (Geez, that's not much!) Hehe. It's kinda hard to communicate, but... or rather it's impossible, but just having been able to physically experience that made me feel like there would be meaning in drawing "RING." I thought, and somehow or other my courage increased 100 fold...

And so, getting wound up over that, I decided that the next thing I'd try would be playing around with the Ring, or rather the hoop (tire), and what sort of plays I could do with it... basically. But this was kinda like a street-performance juggling trick, so I couldn't really do any plays that were all that impressive without practicing... That was another thing I felt out there... However, on the other hand, if I had the premise of people who'd been playing RING for a long time ever since they were kids, then a whole lot of plays would be possible, wouldn't there? It felt like there were quite a lot of possibilities. But again, for that, all I could do was imagine...

The thing that frustrated me the most... I guess would be dribbling. When I was thinking about the rules, this was honestly the thing that I was worried over the most. What do I do about dribbling... I thought about it in a whole bunch of different ways. Should I restrict it to the "number of steps", like in basketball, while carrying the Ring...? Or should I do it like in handball where the "time" you can carry the ring is restricted... This caused me a great deal of frustration. And when actually carrying the ring, (tire) there was a lot of trial and error in trying to move with it...

Shimabu's Story

(Until I made Ring (14))

Dribbling is decisively one of the more major means of approaching an opponent's territory, so it has to carry a considerable risk with it, I'd say. All sports have a risk like that as part of the rules, after all... But one thing I had made up my mind about was "Simple is best!", so I wanted to make the rules as simple and easy to understand as possible. So I wanted to leave out complicated stuff like time and number of steps if at all possible. I was creating something that had no real "right answer" to it, so I decided I'd just go with simple! Yeah!! I could attach anything else I need later on, anyhow... You might ask why it is I thought that way... You see when I was making "Ring" I read lots of different sports' rule books. And what I learned from them was the rules of pretty much every sport change little by little every year. Even sports that've been around for over 100 years are still having revisions to the rules. In other words, rules themselves are things that change with the era, so it's essentially impossible to make perfect ones right from the outset. With that in mind, there obviously was no way some average guy like me could make perfect rules. You could call this a form of dodging responsibility... (hehe). But thinking that made things a whole lot easier, and so I divided the work so I'd start with just trying to come up with the bare-basic rules. ...By the way, I read a whole bunch of rule books, and rugby and basketball seriously have too many fouls (hehe)! In my mind, soccer has the ideal rules! Among all these sports, soccer's rule book is extremely thin and there are few actual violations you can perform. Also, what I think is really amazing about soccer is that even if you don't have a ball, just something round, anyone can play it anywhere. In other words, kids can play it no matter how poor their country is. I don't think sports that cost money to play are necessarily bad, not at all, but people all over the world can enjoy the game the same way. I think that point is what makes soccer such a great sport. And soccer is undoubtedly the king of sports (Though I'd really like it if Ring became at least a foot-soldier of sports... hehe).

Shimabu's Story

(Until I made Ring (15))

Okay, about the rules, I decided on Simple. So with dribbling I ended up with no restrictions on it. Run with it in your hand (hehe)! You can run all you want!! is what I went with... To be honest, I only decided this after Ring was already serialized (Hey, hey...). So I did stress over that quite a bit. In place of it, I decided to implement the 'Over-Keep' rule which is a lot like something they have in rugby (See 'RING' volume 2). There are a lot of things that get called violations, aren't there? Frequently, they're things to "limit dangerous play" and limit "stalling for time". So from there, I figured that in sports where scores you earn determine the match, there's really no need to "stall for time", right...? Like in volleyball or tennis or badminton or table tennis, there's really no meaning in "stalling for time", pretty much... So what I stressed over next was since Ring is a field sport, so if I made it something like whoever gets to 10 points first wins, then nobody would be thinking about time, right (Hehe)? So it's possible the game could keep going for over 3 hours or even end in 15 minutes... When I considered that, I decided it would feel way more natural to make RING a game that ended when time ran out. I had come to a pretty clear answer; there. So then you had the problem of what to do if a winning team did things to delay the game in order to run away with it... Right, so there I referenced the rules of soccer, but in soccer you have the concept of 'ungentlemanly conduct', in other words plays that the referee judged as unsportsmanlike were then given that label and considered a violation. In other words, there are some strictly established rules, but beyond that there were things the referee could judge depending on the individual situation. It's quite a compromise, or rather a convenient rule, huh? At that point I say 'That rule rocks!' (Hehe). In ring I decided on some rough rules, but everything beyond that I decided would be up to the referee (hehe)! Mm, I've gotta say I took the easy way out... 'Hmph' I thought. (What the hell do you mean 'Hmph'?!)

Shimabu's Story

(Until I made Ring (16))

There was still a lot to come up with, but this next one was straight and to the point! What do I do with the uniforms?! Yeah... For this, it was really strange, er, there were times when I said 'Woa~' in every sport, you could tell which sport it was just by looking at the uniforms. This is an offhand remark, don't you think that's incredible? In judo, kendo, American football, and ice hockey, just by how they look, well I guess those are pretty obvious, but even in sports like soccer and rugby and of course baseball and basketball, everyone can tell what sport the players are in without even seeing them play. Ideally I'd like that kind of simplicity to be in Ring, too, but this was another thing that was surprisingly difficult... Every sport's uniform, much as you'd expect, was an outfit made to suit the sport they were going to be played in. So then we have RING, a sport played outside with some degree of physical exertion. So then the shoes would have to be spiked. I figured 'Okay, I guess' on that one, but the important part is the design of the uniforms. So of course, I was gonna have to reference other outdoor sports like soccer or rugby. So then how do I go about differentiating them... The first thing I thought of was since RING was something I had thought up, and I'm Japanese, the sport of Ring in the manga would be a sport with Japanese origins... So then maybe I could give it Japanese conventions like something familiar like a 'sash' around everyone...? Yeah, like around the waist. I mean karate and judo are both sports with a sash of some sort, and I wouldn't be overlapping with them too much, I thought. Also, since it kinda looked cool visually, or maybe it's just me that thinks they're cool, I thought about putting something high-neck at the throat... I thought about the undershirts that they have in baseball, like Ichirou or somebody wearing those high-neck undershirts was kinda cool. In Ring I would put pads in there and in the unlikely event that the ring went around your neck, pads would have the protect your throat, so it would serve that purpose, too (Though that was a reason I came up with later on...). I figured that would be the limit as far as uniform design went. I mean I'm not all that good at that sorta thing. If it were up to me I would be pretty 'whatever' when it came to the clothes, so I figured that was pretty okay... (Yeah, that should be good). I kinda followed myself up there!

Shimabu's Story

(Until I made Ring (17))

Gumu~~~, I still have a I haven't finished with my 'Until I Made Ring' (What?! You do?!) and there's tons of things I haven't written enough about, but I don't have enough pages left... (Hey!). By the way, about the hoop used in Ring, after that I tested it out on a bicycle tube and just as I expected, it didn't really work. Believe t or not, the closest thing I could find was (I touched a bit on this before) was a car's steering wheel cover!! The feeling of grasping it, the weight, and the texture were all perfect!! Also it bounced so it made a perfect ring! There's a lot of other stuff I'd like to talk about, so until an opportunity arises when I get another chance... that's all.

Lastly, I didn't write this manga called 'RING' because I wanted to show people the sport of Ring... Ring is simply the theme. The star of the show is without question the characters!! What I wanted to show everyone was Summer, Toki, Saori and the rest!! The stars of any manga are always the characters. If I'm able to draw their incredible stories of what comes after this, I'd really like to! To all the staff that went through great pains since this manga called 'RING' was announced, to all my editors that I bothered by always handing in things right at the deadline, to all my assistants that helped out without complaining even in the difficult times, to my family that's always supported me, and most of all all the readers that've supported me, you have my deepest gratitude. This manga is for all the people I hold dear, my readers, and all of my loved ones up in heaven. See ya later~!

2005.5.9 SHIMABUU

■ジャンプ・コミックス　デラックス

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RING VOLUME 3

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